



**County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Emergency Medical Services**

Prehospital Annual Report

**July 1, 1999
through
June 30, 2000**

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March 2002

Prehospital Annual Report

**July 1, 1999
through
June 30, 2000**

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San Diego County Emergency Medical Services

A Division of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) serves to coordinate the activities of prehospital and trauma center service providers for all residents and visitors of San Diego. The Division has been designated as the County's "local EMS agency" pursuant to the Health & Safety Code, and serves as the primary regulatory agency for the local EMS system. Additionally, the Division oversees the County's mass casualty plan, administers two EMS districts, permits ambulance providers and ambulances pursuant to the County's Ambulance Ordinance, supports the County's Sexual Assault Response Teams, and manages several grant projects.

EMS Resources

The San Diego County EMS system has developed into a finely integrated network of resources linked together with one purpose: the delivery of excellence in prehospital medical services to the residents and visitors of San Diego County. In 1999-00 the system was composed of the following resources.

Hospital Resources

- **Base Hospitals: Designated by the Division of EMS (8)**

Grossmont Hospital-Sharp Healthcare	Scripps Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
Palomar Medical Center	Sharp Memorial Hospital
Scripps Memorial Hospital, Chula Vista	Tri-City Medical Center
Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla	UCSD Medical Center
- **Trauma Centers: Designated by the Division of EMS (6)**

Children's Hospital and Health Center	Scripps Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
Palomar Medical Center	Sharp Memorial Hospital
Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla	UCSD Medical Center
- **Other Receiving Hospitals - with permit for basic emergency services (14)**

Air Medical Resources with Emergency Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services (1)

Mercy Air

Advanced Life Support (ALS) Jurisdictions

Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Vista, Grossmont Hospital District, Heartland District (CSA-69), North County Fire Protection District, Ramona Water District, San Dieguito EMS District (CSA-17)

Basic Life Support (BLS) EMT-I primary responding (transporting) agencies:

Borrego Springs Fire Protection District, Coronado Fire Department, Del Mar Fire Department, East County Fire Protection District, Encinitas Fire Department, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department, Solana Beach Fire Department, Sycuan Fire Department

EMT-Defibrillation Agencies (40)

Alpine Fire Protection District	Lemon Grove Fire Protection District
American Medical Response	Medicor Inc.
Americare Ambulance	Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department
Barona Fire Department	National Steel and Ship Building Company
Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District	National City Fire Department
Borrego Springs Fire Protection District	North County Fire Protection District
Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department	Pala Fire Department
Care Medical Transportation	Palomar Mtn Volunteer Fire Department
Chula Vista Fire Department	Pine Valley Fire Protection District
Coronado Fire Department	Poway Fire Department
Deer Springs Fire Protection District	Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department
Del Mar Fire Department	Rural Fire Protection District
East County Fire Protection District	San Diego Fire Department
El Cajon Fire Department	San Miguel Fire Protection District
Encinitas Fire Department	San Onofre Fire Department
Event Medical Services	Santee Fire Department
Imperial Beach Fire Department	Solana Beach Fire Department
Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Protection District	Sycuan Fire Protection District
La Mesa Fire Department	Valley Center Fire Protection District
Lakeside Fire Protection District	Warner Springs Fire Department

Private Ambulance Providers (with permit from EMS) (6)

American Medical Response of San Diego	Professional Transport Services
Balboa Ambulance Service	Schaefer Ambulance Service
Care Medical Transportation	Stat Medical Transportation, Inc.

Prehospital Data Collection

As required in the California statute, one of the primary functions of an emergency medical services system is the data collection and evaluation (Health & Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.103). The region made a major transition to optically scanned “bubble forms” in 1983. These forms were completed by field personnel at the time of transport. Information regarding unit identification, response times, patient assessment information and treatments, as well as patient disposition were collected. This multi-part form became a part of the patient’s medical record, and a copy was returned to the County EMS Division offices for scanning, editing, and compilation.

In 1993 the County embarked upon a project to automate the collection of the prehospital data through the use of desktop computers, linked together in a real-time system known as the Quality Assurance Network (QANet, described below). The data collected on the QANet paralleled the data gathered on the optically scanned forms, and were linked together with the data generated from the base hospital providing medical control (the Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) record) to provide a complete picture of the care that a patient received. The County has been in the process of transitioning prehospital service provider agencies from the optically scanned forms to the QANet data collection system. The data generated for this annual report were developed from a database which combines the information from both forms of the prehospital patient record (PPR).

Quality Assurance/Quality improvement (QA/QI)

The County maintains an active QA/QI process designed to identify areas of possible system improvement and improved patient care. At the center of this system is the field provider, who is recognized as the most important asset to providing quality care. All regional QA/QI activities are coordinated by the county's Prehospital Audit Committee (PAC), which is comprised of base hospital personnel, air medical personnel, field EMT-Is and paramedics, EMS educators, and County staff. This body meets monthly, reviews prehospital patient records, examines QA/QI interventions, undertakes focused audits, and develops QA/QI related policies.

In the San Diego County regional EMS system, base hospitals are charged with the primary responsibility (by contract with the County) for overseeing the quality of prehospital care provided within their spheres of influence. They accomplish this by maintaining close oversight of assigned prehospital personnel, implementing educational needs for individuals and the EMS system, collecting prehospital QA/QI data, and coordinating QA/QI activities. Their work would not be successful without the cooperation and participation of field providers, provider agency supervisory personnel, and EMS educators.

The County considers the Quality Assurance Network (the QANet) to be the backbone of its quality improvement data gathering activities. This on-line, real-time computer network connects all receiving hospitals, all base hospitals and trauma centers, and many ambulance stations. Besides serving as the primary medium for the PPR documentation, the QANet tracks hospital resource status and all QA/QI activities for system analysis. Not all of the data generated for this Prehospital Annual Report were captured through the QANet, since there remain a number of ALS and BLS agencies who still use the system's optically scanned PPR forms for data entry. Aside from collecting prehospital patient data, the QANet provides real-time updates on the resource status of all receiving hospitals and trauma centers so that patients could be delivered to the "right place the first time." Additionally, the QANet's e-mail functions and bulletin board allow for information to be easily communicated among all system participants.

Prehospital Patient Records (PPRs)

PPRs were completed by ALS and BLS prehospital personnel. For the purposes of this report, the data were divided into emergency and non-emergency calls. Emergency calls were defined as medical calls received by the 9-1-1 system that were responded to by ALS or BLS personnel. Non-emergency calls encompassed all other calls not managed through the 9-1-1 system. These included interfacility transfers and non-emergency BLS transports.

Data were collected by over 2500 field personnel. Given the nature of the data collection process, there were errors in reporting that could not be controlled for. The level of error generally did not exceed 5%. Corrections in the data were made when possible. Some fields, such as race/ethnicity, were based on the judgement of the prehospital care provider and may not reflect the race/ethnicity as defined by the patient. In addition, data were sometimes omitted from the PPRs. The number of missing data points are footnoted in tables and charts.

Please note that these data presentations are intended to demonstrate the activity of the entire prehospital system, which includes emergency (911) calls and non-emergency transportation. It is recommended that caution is used when interpreting data presented.

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Section 1

All Calls

Prehospital Activity: All Calls

Prehospital (ambulance) calls are classified into three main categories based on outcome: emergency patients, non-emergency patients, and other outcomes. The majority of ambulance responses are for emergency patients. This includes patients that were transported by the reporting unit, left the scene against medical advice (AMA), were treated at the scene and released, were dead on scene (DOS), were transported by private vehicle, or for whom no aid was necessary. Non-emergency patient transports include those who were transported from one medical facility to another or were transported for some other non-emergent reason. Other outcomes that prehospital personnel might report are transported by another unit, either at the same site or met at another location to complete transport to a medical facility (transport rendezvous), or call cancelled. This report examines emergency and non-emergency patient transports in detail in separate sections.

Table 1.1 Prehospital Run Outcomes, San Diego County, FY 1999/00

Type of Outcome	Outcome	Number	% Calls	% Patients
Emergency Patients N=155,075 (67.20%)	Transported by Unit	134,742	58.39%	62.13%
	AMA	14,882	6.45%	6.86%
	Release	2,259	0.98%	1.04%
	DOS	1,922	0.83%	0.89%
	Private Transport	134	0.06%	0.06%
	Aid Unnecessary	1,136	0.49%	0.52%
Non-Emergency Patients N=61,810 (26.78%)	Interfacility	11,033	4.78%	5.09%
	Interfacility CCT	12,177	5.28%	5.61%
	Other Non-Em BLS	38,600	16.73%	17.80%
Total Patients		216,885	93.98%	100%
Other Outcomes N=13,916 (6.03%)	Transport Other Unit	10,038	4.35%	---
	Transport Rendezvous	203	0.09%	---
	Call Cancelled	2,869	1.24%	---
	Unknown/Missing	806	0.35%	---
Total Calls		230,801	100.00%	---

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services,
Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas

Table 1.2 shows the number and rates of ambulance calls by San Diego County subregional areas for fiscal year 1999-00. Central San Diego had the most ambulance calls (12.1% of all calls). As a proportion of population, Harbison Crest and Anza-Borrego Springs had the highest rates of ambulance utilization, 26,612 and 19,845 (per 100,000) respectively.

Table 1.2 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Calls

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/Unk			
Alpine	1,252	110	32	4	1,398	13,878	10,073
Anza-Borrego Springs	14	643	88	0	745	3,754	19,845
Carlsbad	2,965	575	39	5	3,584	98,175	3,651
Central San Diego	15,157	12,037	7	1	27,202	165,602	16,426
Chula Vista	6,187	6,510	12	1	12,710	107,385	11,836
Coastal	4,369	5,223	2	0	9,594	81,693	11,744
Coronado	71	1,897	2	2	1,972	24,673	7,993
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3,114	587	6	0	3,707	141,902	2,612
El Cajon	6,223	2,784	9	3	9,019	122,743	7,348
Elliott-Navajo	2,476	7,438	0	0	9,914	95,494	10,382
Escondido	4,461	10,132	60	1	14,654	143,964	10,179
Fallbrook	1,531	865	66	0	2,462	44,914	5,482
Harbison Crest	1,893	2,327	2	0	4,222	15,865	26,612
Jamul	555	119	31	1	706	13,339	5,293
Kearny Mesa	8,143	9,076	4	1	17,224	153,648	11,210
La Mesa	3,262	6,417	5	1	9,685	61,439	15,764
Laguna-Pine Valley	117	19	15	0	151	5,682	2,658
Lakeside	2,487	379	30	2	2,898	56,567	5,123
Lemon Grove	1,366	460	0	0	1,826	30,656	5,956
Mid-City	8,744	1,889	0	0	10,633	160,012	6,645
Miramar	114	45	0	0	159	5,916	2,688
Mountain Empire	635	46	66	0	747	6,420	11,636
National City	2,957	3,098	4	0	6,059	55,205	10,975
North San Diego	3,179	1,822	1	0	5,002	88,356	5,661
Oceanside	8,295	7,405	236	0	15,936	150,354	10,599
Palomar-Julian	21	257	33	2	313	6,462	4,844
Pauma	24	250	21	0	295	6,046	4,879
Pendleton	33	1,024	51	0	1,108	38,784	2,857
Peninsula	2,001	772	5	0	2,778	64,037	4,338
Poway	2,239	2,032	24	1	4,296	83,866	5,122
Ramona	1,230	296	33	1	1,560	34,663	4,500
San Dieguito	3,070	2,680	25	1	5,776	89,322	6,466
San Marcos	5,539	502	32	0	6,073	67,910	8,943
Santee	2,679	370	10	6	3,065	56,869	5,390
South Bay	5,525	895	4	0	6,424	128,779	4,988
Southeast San Diego	6,439	867	1	1	7,308	159,862	4,571
Spring Valley	2,494	545	5	0	3,044	84,235	3,614
Sweetwater	655	192	6	0	853	77,072	1,107
University	1,600	608	0	0	2,208	52,872	4,176
Valley Center	6	588	24	0	618	20,158	3,066
Vista	5,784	1,793	64	8	7,649	92,895	8,234
Out of County	36	138	70	0	244	---	---
Unknown	3,530	880	362	208	4,980	---	---
Total	132,472	96,592	1,487	250	230,801	2,911,468	7,927

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

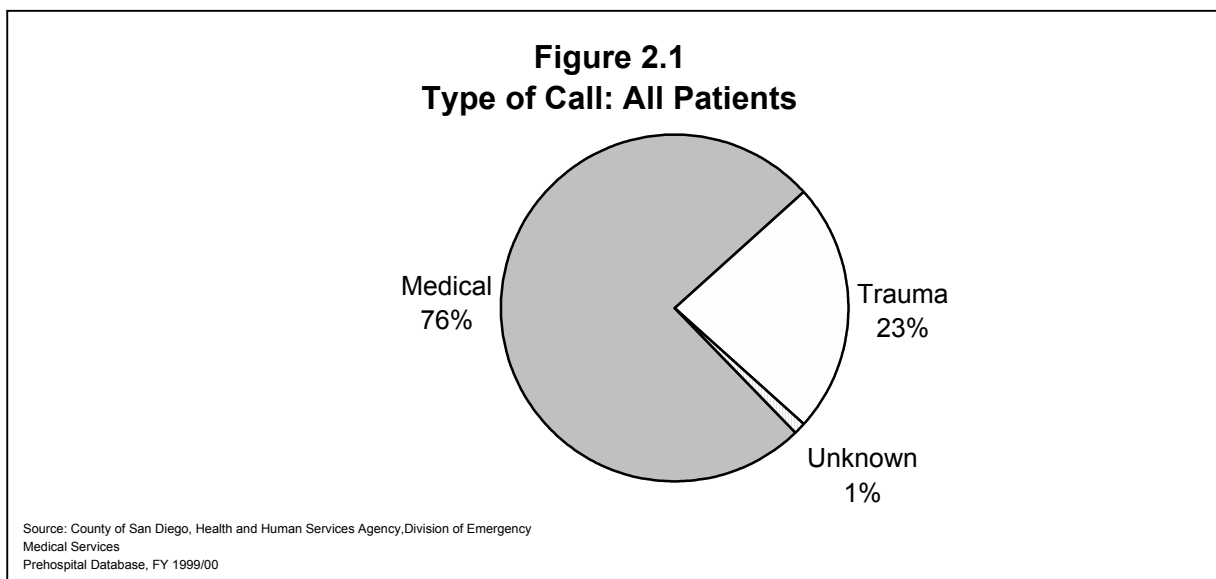
Section 2

All Patients

Prehospital Activity: All Patients

This section addresses all patients to whom an ambulance responded during fiscal year 1999-00. This is defined as all calls, with the exception of those with an outcome code of transport by other unit, transport rendezvous, or call cancelled. This includes all three agency types: advanced life support (ALS), basic life support (BLS), and air transport.

As seen in Figure 2.1, the majority (76%) of the calls for prehospital patients are medical in nature.



Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas

San Diego County is made up of 41 subregional areas, which vary substantially in geographic area, population size, and many demographic factors. As shown in Table 2.1, the areas that use ambulance services most often are the most populous, which also tend to be located in more urban parts of the county. Indeed, the five most populous regions, which comprise 27 percent of the county population, accounted for 35 percent of all prehospital patients during FY 1999-00. This does not necessarily mean that people who live in these areas are more likely to use ambulance services than individuals in other areas. Harbison Crest, which is the ninth smallest of the subregional areas, has the highest rate of ambulance utilization (24,828 per 100,000 people). The likelihood of somebody in this area being transported by ambulance is 3.3 times the overall county rate, and 1.5 times that of Central San Diego, which has the second highest rate.

Table 2.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Patients

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/Unk			
Alpine	1,124	109	30	2	1,265	13,878	9,115
Anza-Borrego Springs	13	510	80	0	603	3,754	16,063
Carlsbad	2,874	564	38	5	3,481	98,175	3,546
Central San Diego	15,108	11,852	7	1	26,968	165,602	16,285
Chula Vista	5,981	6,394	11	1	12,387	107,385	11,535
Coastal	4,347	5,141	2	0	9,490	81,693	11,617
Coronado	70	1,868	2	2	1,942	24,673	7,871
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3,048	576	6	0	3,630	141,902	2,558
El Cajon	5,511	2,746	9	2	8,268	122,743	6,736
Elliott-Navajo	2,462	7,380	0	0	9,842	95,494	10,306
Escondido	4,356	10,016	58	1	14,431	143,964	10,024
Fallbrook	1,328	856	65	0	2,249	44,914	5,007
Harbison Crest	1,649	2,288	2	0	3,939	15,865	24,828
Jamul	515	113	31	1	660	13,339	4,948
Kearny Mesa	8,117	8,916	4	1	17,038	153,648	11,089
La Mesa	3,220	6,341	5	1	9,567	61,439	15,572
Laguna-Pine Valley	98	19	13	0	130	5,682	2,288
Lakeside	2,103	365	29	0	2,497	56,567	4,414
Lemon Grove	1,353	449	0	0	1,802	30,656	5,878
Mid-City	8,709	1,867	0	0	10,576	160,012	6,610
Miramar	111	45	0	0	156	5,916	2,637
Mountain Empire	534	43	64	0	641	6,420	9,984
National City	2,861	3,062	4	0	5,927	55,205	10,736
North San Diego	3,084	1,792	1	0	4,877	88,356	5,520
Oceanside	4,666	7,263	233	0	12,162	150,354	8,089
Palomar-Julian	17	207	33	1	258	6,462	3,993
Pauma	15	223	20	0	258	6,046	4,267
Pendleton	15	989	51	0	1,055	38,784	2,720
Peninsula	1,992	745	5	0	2,742	64,037	4,282
Poway	2,040	2,004	24	1	4,069	83,866	4,852
Ramona	1,171	275	33	1	1,480	34,663	4,270
San Dieguito	2,784	2,553	24	0	5,361	89,322	6,002
San Marcos	3,157	486	30	0	3,673	67,910	5,409
Santee	2,260	357	10	2	2,629	56,869	4,623
South Bay	5,391	841	4	0	6,236	128,779	4,842
Southeast San Diego	6,422	854	1	1	7,278	159,862	4,553
Spring Valley	2,456	527	5	0	2,988	84,235	3,547
Sweetwater	630	185	6	0	821	77,072	1,065
University	1,593	598	0	0	2,191	52,872	4,144
Valley Center	6	541	23	0	570	20,158	2,828
Vista	4,852	1,766	63	5	6,686	92,895	7,197
Out of County	34	131	69	0	234	---	---
Unknown	2,702	782	342	2	3,828	---	---
Total	120,779	94,639	1,437	30	216,885	2,911,468	7,441*

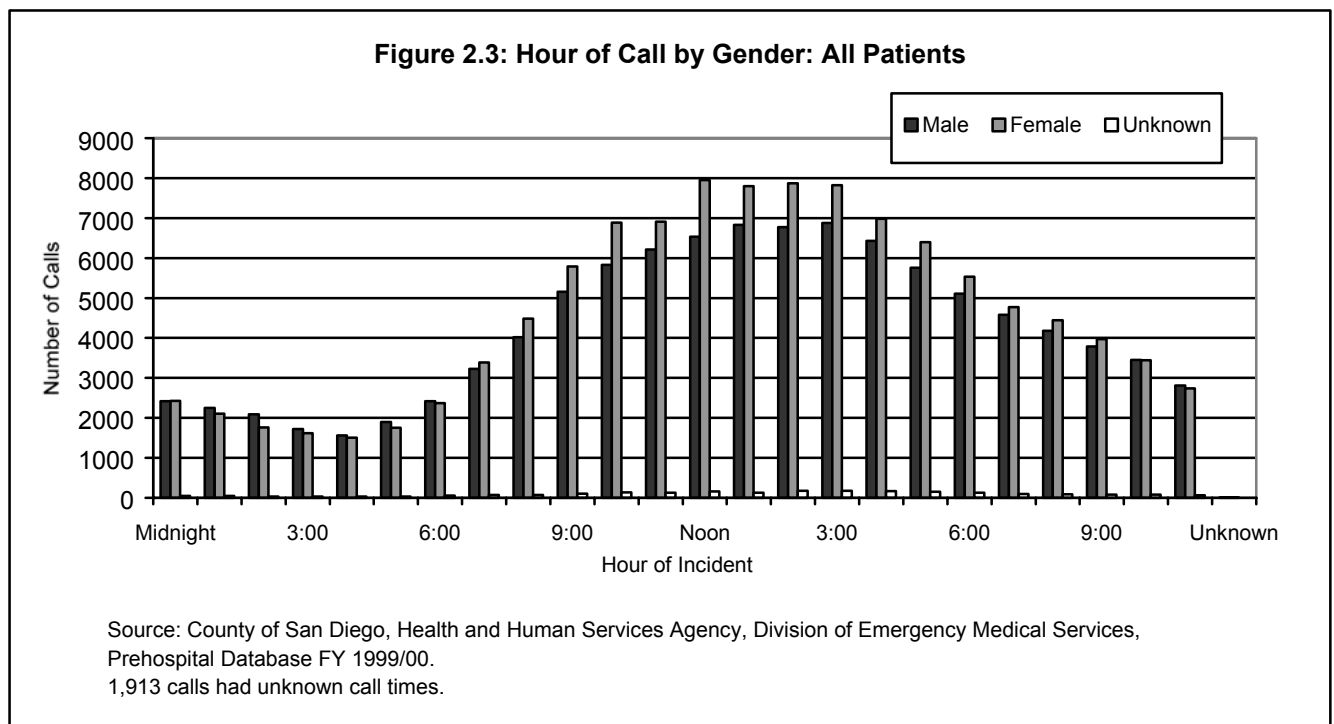
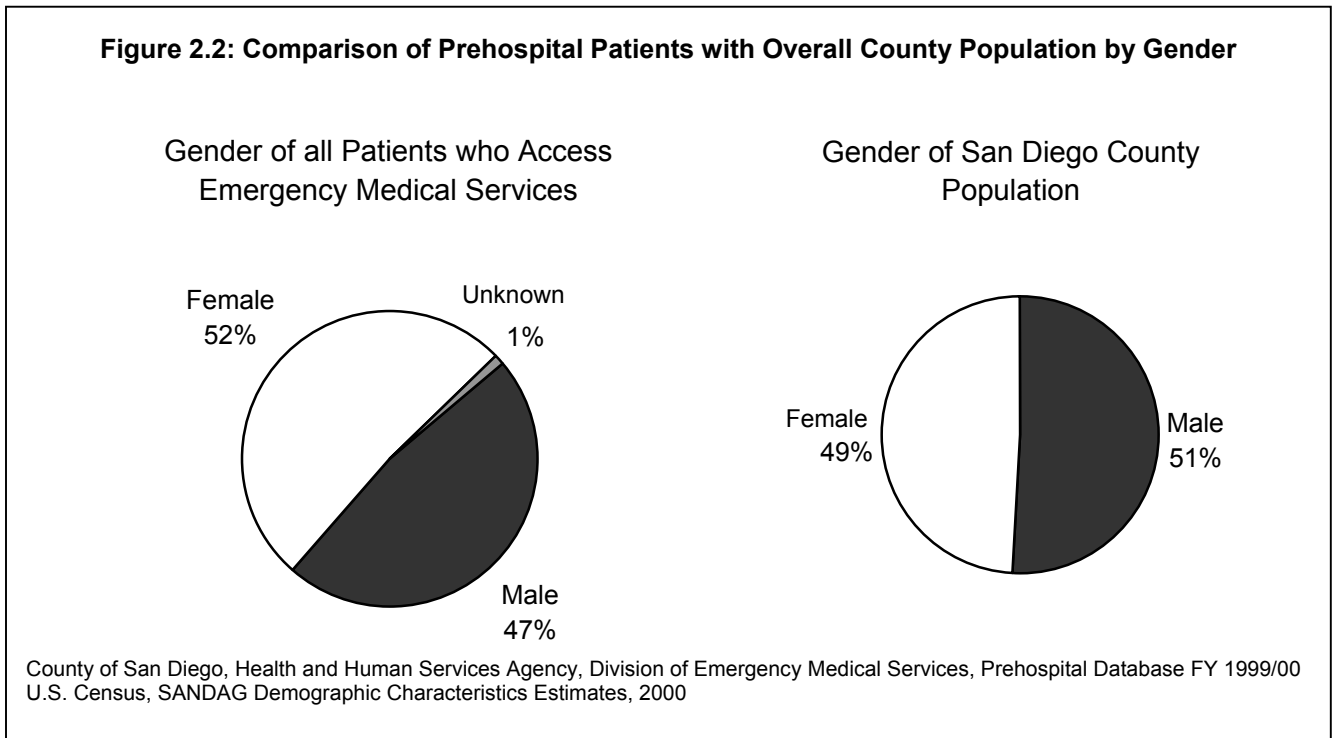
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

Gender of All Patients

The overall percentage of males and females that used the EMS system was about the same as the gender distribution of residents in San Diego County (Figure 2.2). However, there was a difference based on time of day, with females accounting for 54% of calls between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm (Figure 2.3).

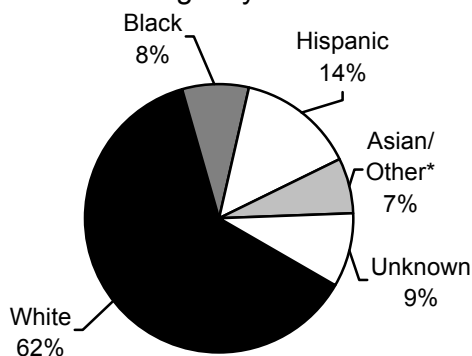


Race/Ethnicity of Patients

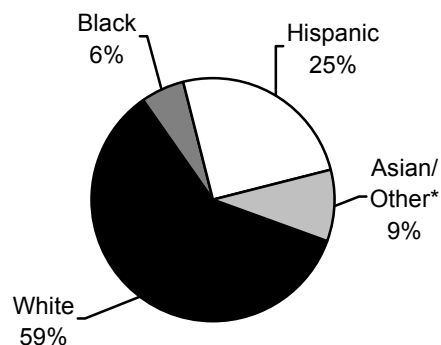
Prehospital personnel in the field make race/ethnicity determinations for all individuals who use ambulance services. Comparing prehospital patients to statistics for the entire county population reveals that Blacks appear to be overrepresented (8% of patients, 6% of the population), and that these services may be underutilized by the Hispanic population (14% of patients, 25% of the population).

Figure 2.4: Comparison of Prehospital Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity of All Patients who Access Emergency Medical Services

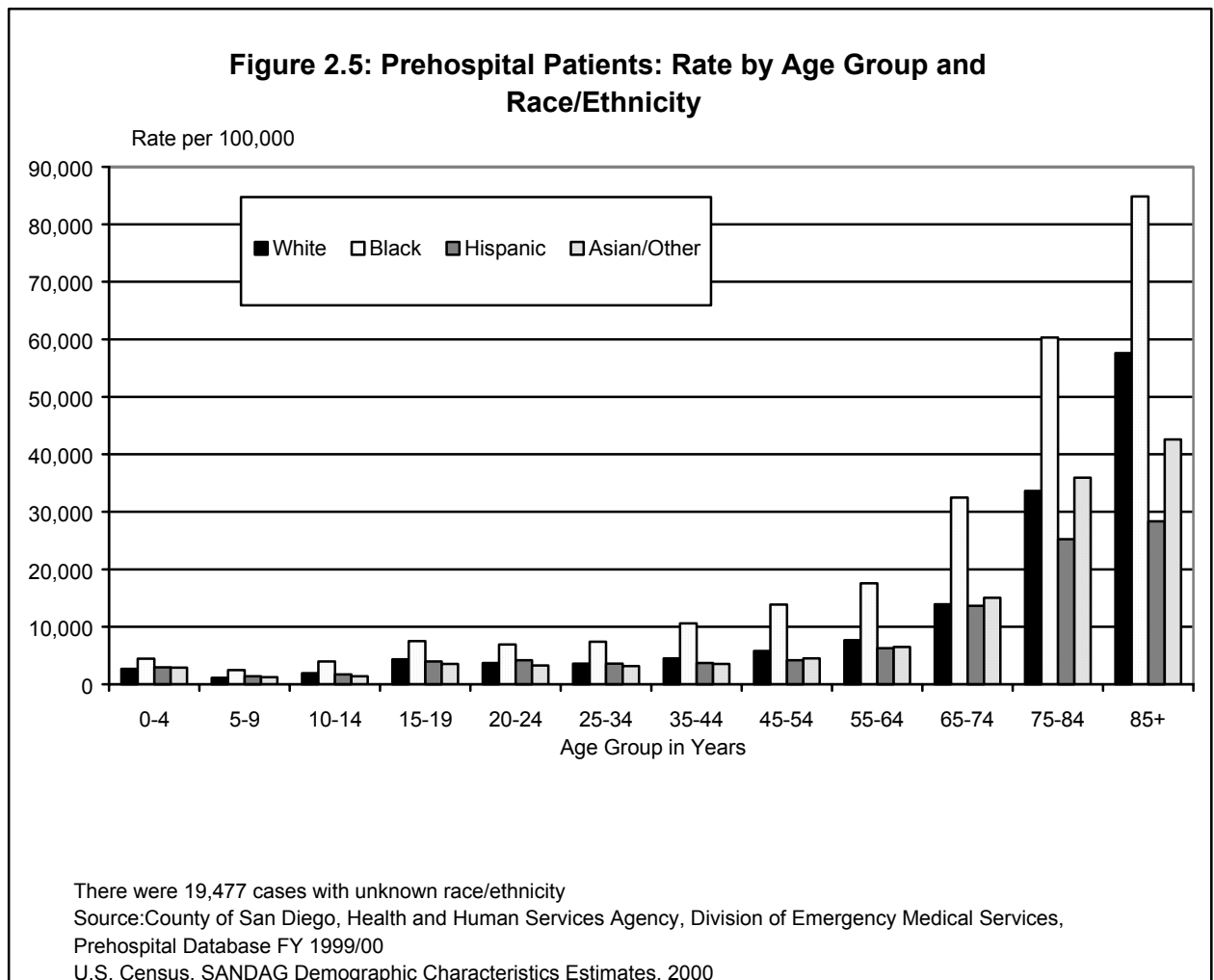


Race/Ethnicity of San Diego County Population



*County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census did. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 66% Asian, 4% Native American, 32% Other. There were 19,477 cases with missing race/ethnicity.

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00
U.S. Census, SANDAG Demographic Characteristics Estimates, 2000



Black patients had the highest rate of ambulance utilization for all age levels, and increased to an average of more than one ambulance response per person for patients aged 85 and above (Figure 2.5). This high rate is most pronounced among elderly Black women (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2 Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity
per 100,000 Population: All Patients**

Age Group in Years		Race/Ethnicity									Total*	
		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		
		Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
0-4	Male	1,493	2,857	414	4,801	1,562	3,403	366	3,117	417	4,252	3,587
	Female	1,227	2,474	337	4,088	1,188	2,517	291	2,652	360	3,403	2,933
	Total	2,731	2,681	753	4,464	2,775	2,980	662	2,914	814	7,735	3,298
5-9	Male	732	1,329	245	2,866	669	1,634	157	1,421	224	2,027	1,753
	Female	455	884	173	2,104	437	1,161	105	996	146	1,316	1,220
	Total	1,188	1,115	418	2,493	1,109	1,411	263	1,218	378	3,356	1,502
10-14	Male	1,117	2,134	303	4,031	665	1,937	158	1,444	258	2,501	2,379
	Female	871	1,749	284	3,863	472	1,487	139	1,317	188	1,954	1,965
	Total	1,996	1,954	591	3,975	1,140	1,725	298	1,386	457	4,482	2,191
15-19	Male	2,310	4,745	505	6,338	1,282	4,143	362	3,336	525	4,984	5,063
	Female	1,942	3,919	580	8,829	1,047	3,748	395	3,743	450	4,414	4,665
	Total	4,261	4,338	1,091	7,505	2,340	3,974	761	3,555	1,010	9,463	4,902
20-24	Male	2,493	3,502	551	5,257	1,376	4,177	347	2,870	541	5,308	4,190
	Female	2,070	3,952	620	9,618	1,147	4,177	397	3,691	505	4,739	4,883
	Total	4,575	3,703	1,173	6,930	2,531	4,190	746	3,265	1,073	10,098	4,513
25-34	Male	4,765	3,564	1,016	6,267	2,250	3,499	603	2,792	890	9,524	4,039
	Female	4,128	3,586	1,180	8,634	2,019	3,703	783	3,531	850	8,960	4,361
	Total	8,909	3,581	2,207	7,387	4,289	3,609	1,396	3,189	1,802	18,603	4,216
35-44	Male	7,577	4,919	1,378	9,421	2,061	3,775	641	3,206	1,157	12,814	5,268
	Female	5,809	4,065	1,499	11,771	1,736	3,532	905	3,797	1,069	11,018	4,819
	Total	13,420	4,519	2,896	10,584	3,817	3,680	1,554	3,546	2,293	23,980	5,082
45-54	Male	7,560	6,120	1,204	12,848	1,541	4,550	708	4,590	1,087	12,100	6,641
	Female	6,165	5,364	1,315	14,897	1,275	3,777	846	4,433	907	10,508	5,950
	Total	13,768	5,774	2,524	13,870	2,830	4,185	1,565	4,535	2,042	22,729	6,335
55-64	Male	6,337	8,114	803	16,966	1,127	6,501	694	7,288	736	9,697	8,840
	Female	5,723	7,236	882	17,941	1,146	5,981	718	5,842	708	9,177	7,948
	Total	12,094	7,694	1,693	17,546	2,286	6,264	1,420	6,510	1,487	18,980	8,430
65-74	Male	8,972	14,310	765	31,481	1,363	14,107	917	16,780	938	12,955	16,142
	Female	9,650	13,509	928	33,001	1,615	13,084	1,174	13,762	1,113	14,480	15,223
	Total	18,683	13,929	1,702	32,469	2,996	13,615	2,101	15,011	2,134	27,616	15,747
75-84	Male	13,251	33,728	571	57,043	1,348	27,199	930	35,578	1,221	17,321	36,192
	Female	18,388	33,418	893	62,057	1,604	23,536	1,436	35,766	1,710	24,031	35,711
	Total	31,727	33,640	1,471	60,287	2,971	25,240	2,382	35,933	3,033	41,584	36,112
85+	Male	7,020	58,573	172	67,984	441	23,041	399	43,182	611	8,643	57,330
	Female	13,941	56,911	514	91,950	935	31,492	568	41,950	1,079	17,037	57,992
	Total	21,024	57,630	689	84,852	1,384	28,343	970	42,581	1,753	25,820	58,083
Unknown	Male	383	---	67	---	124	---	32	---	90	696	---
	Female	379	---	64	---	88	---	53	---	83	667	---
	Total	798	---	134	---	217	---	89	---	1,201	2,439	---
Total	Male	64,010	7,250	7,994	8,711	15,809	4,253	6,314	4,775	8,695	102,822	6,954
	Female	70,748	8,267	9,269	11,333	14,709	4,194	7,810	5,399	9,168	111,704	7,796
	Total	135,174	7,775	17,342	9,992	30,685	4,248	14,207	5,131	19,477	216,885	7,449

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00
2,359 patients had unknown gender.

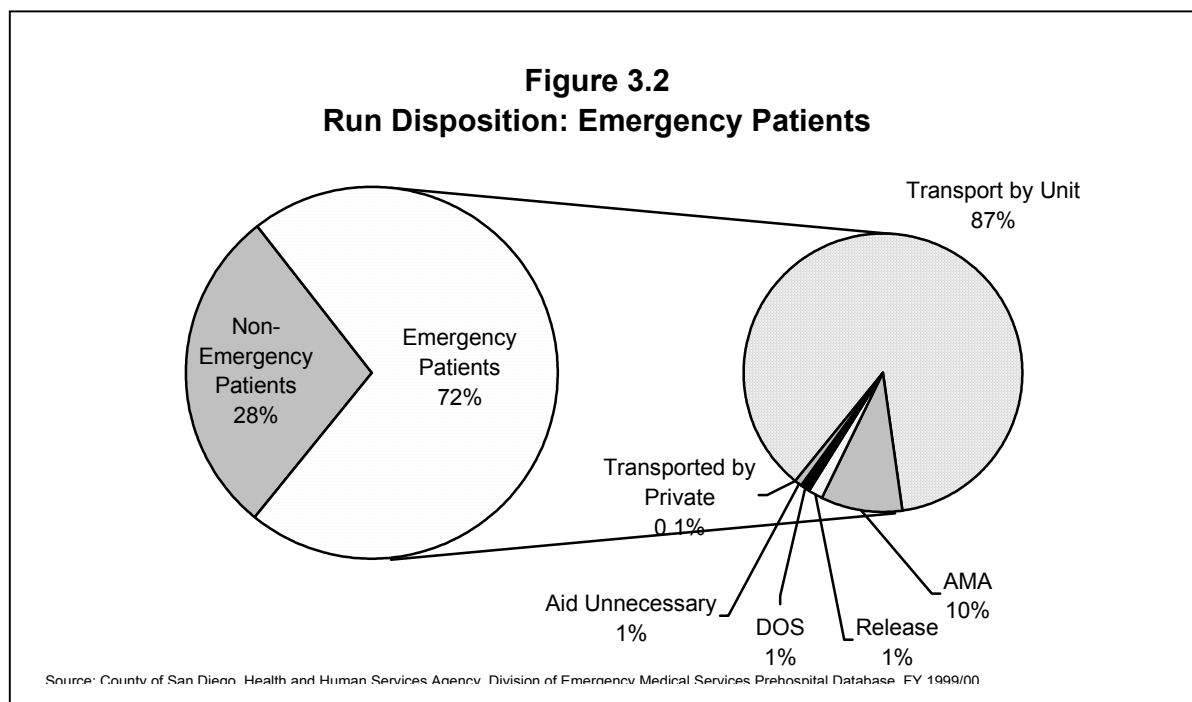
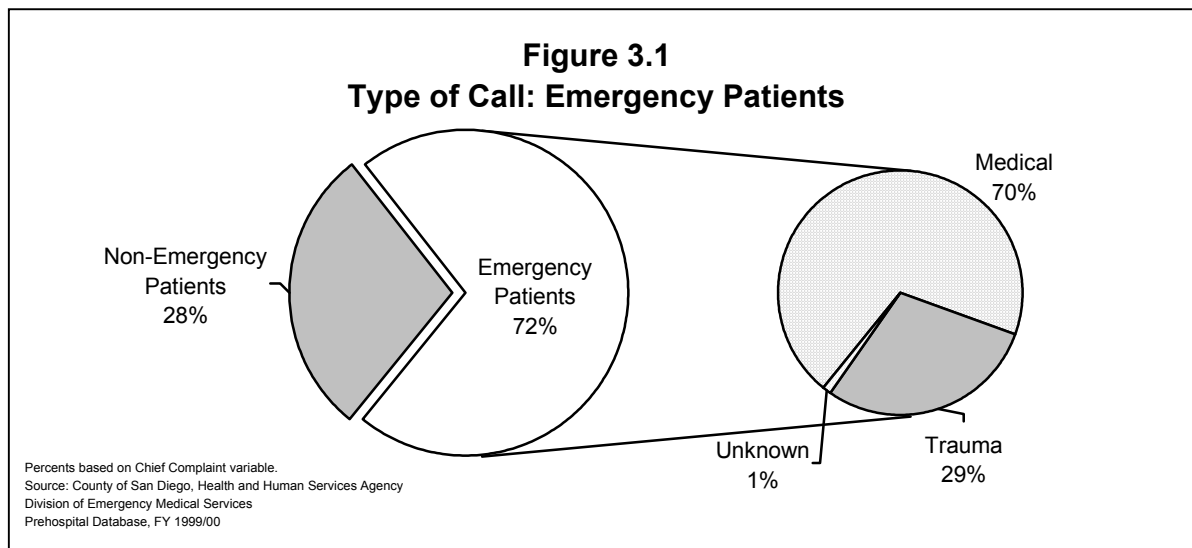
*Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity.

Section 3

Emergency Patients

Emergency Patients by Call Type and Run Disposition

Seventy two percent of all patients were emergency patients. Over two-thirds of calls for emergency patients (70%) were medical in nature (Figure 3.1), and 87% were transported by the calling unit (Figure 3.2).



Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas

Emergency patients are defined as those with outcome codes of transported by unit, left scene against medical advice (AMA), treated and released, dead on scene (DOS), transported by private vehicle, or aid unnecessary. Emergency patients are transported most often by advanced life support (ALS) agencies, but include most patients who were transported by air, and a portion of those to whom basic life support (BLS) agencies responded. As with the regional breakdown for all prehospital responses, the subregional areas with the largest populations also had the most

emergency responses. Again, the five most populous regions, which comprise 27 percent of the county population, accounted for 35 percent of all emergency response patients during FY 1999-00.

Table 3.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Emergency Patients

	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/ Unk			
Alpine	1124	71	30	2	1227	13,878	8,841
Anza-Borrego Springs	13	433	80	0	526	3,754	14,012
Carlsbad	2870	354	38	5	3267	98,175	3,328
Central San Diego	15042	3241	3	0	18286	165,602	11,042
Chula Vista	5967	1852	11	1	7831	107,385	7,292
Coastal	4319	902	2	0	5223	81,693	6,393
Coronado	70	1373	1	2	1446	24,673	5,861
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3045	271	6	0	3322	141,902	2,341
El Cajon	5497	1234	9	1	6741	122,743	5,492
Elliott-Navajo	2427	1236	0	0	3663	95,494	3,836
Escondido	4321	4857	56	1	9235	143,964	6,415
Fallbrook	1320	488	61	0	1869	44,914	4,161
Harbison Crest	1643	847	2	0	2492	15,865	15,708
Jamul	515	73	31	1	620	13,339	4,648
Kearny Mesa	8056	2080	4	0	10140	153,648	6,600
La Mesa	3209	1586	4	1	4800	61,439	7,813
Laguna-Pine Valley	98	8	13	0	119	5,682	2,094
Lakeside	2097	289	29	0	2415	56,567	4,269
Lemon Grove	1351	253	0	0	1604	30,656	5,232
Mid-City	8688	826	0	0	9514	160,012	5,946
Miramar	111	24	0	0	135	5,916	2,282
Mountain Empire	533	28	64	0	625	6,420	9,735
National City	2853	980	4	0	3837	55,205	6,950
North San Diego	3080	770	1	0	3851	88,356	4,359
Oceanside	4354	3055	231	0	7640	150,354	5,081
Palomar-Julian	17	192	33	1	243	6,462	3,760
Pauma	15	196	20	0	231	6,046	3,821
Pendleton	15	859	47	0	921	38,784	2,375
Peninsula	1992	443	4	0	2439	64,037	3,809
Poway	2031	371	24	0	2426	83,866	2,893
Ramona	1170	109	33	1	1313	34,663	3,788
San Dieguito	2780	586	24	0	3390	89,322	3,795
San Marcos	3154	275	30	0	3459	67,910	5,094
Santee	2240	231	10	2	2483	56,869	4,366
South Bay	5389	508	4	0	5901	128,779	4,582
Southeast San Diego	6420	477	1	1	6899	159,862	4,316
Spring Valley	2455	342	5	0	2802	84,235	3,326
Sweetwater	630	115	6	0	751	77,072	974
University	1591	172	0	0	1763	52,872	3,334
Valley Center	5	516	23	0	544	20,158	2,699
Vista	4846	650	63	5	5564	92,895	5,990
Out of County	32	24	61	0	117	---	---
Unknown	2664	404	331	2	3401	---	---
Total	120049	33601	1399	26	155075	2,911,468	5,322*

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

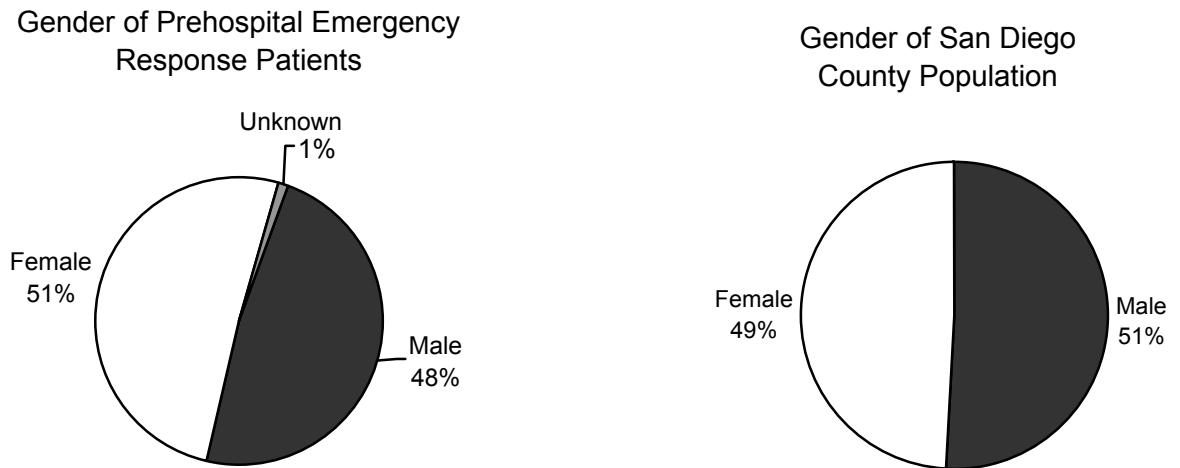
Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

Gender of Emergency Patients

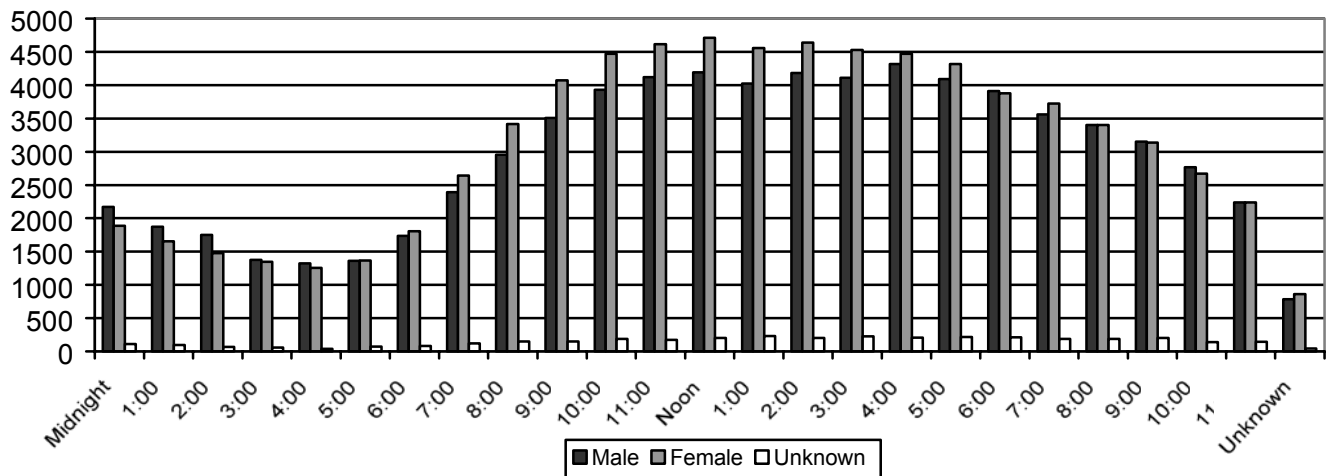
The percentage of males and females who used the EMS system was about the same as the gender distribution of residents in San Diego County (Figure 3.3). Females made up 53% of patients between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, while crews responded to males more often from midnight to 5:00 am (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.3: Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00. U.S. Census, SANDAG Demographic Characteristics Estimates, 2000

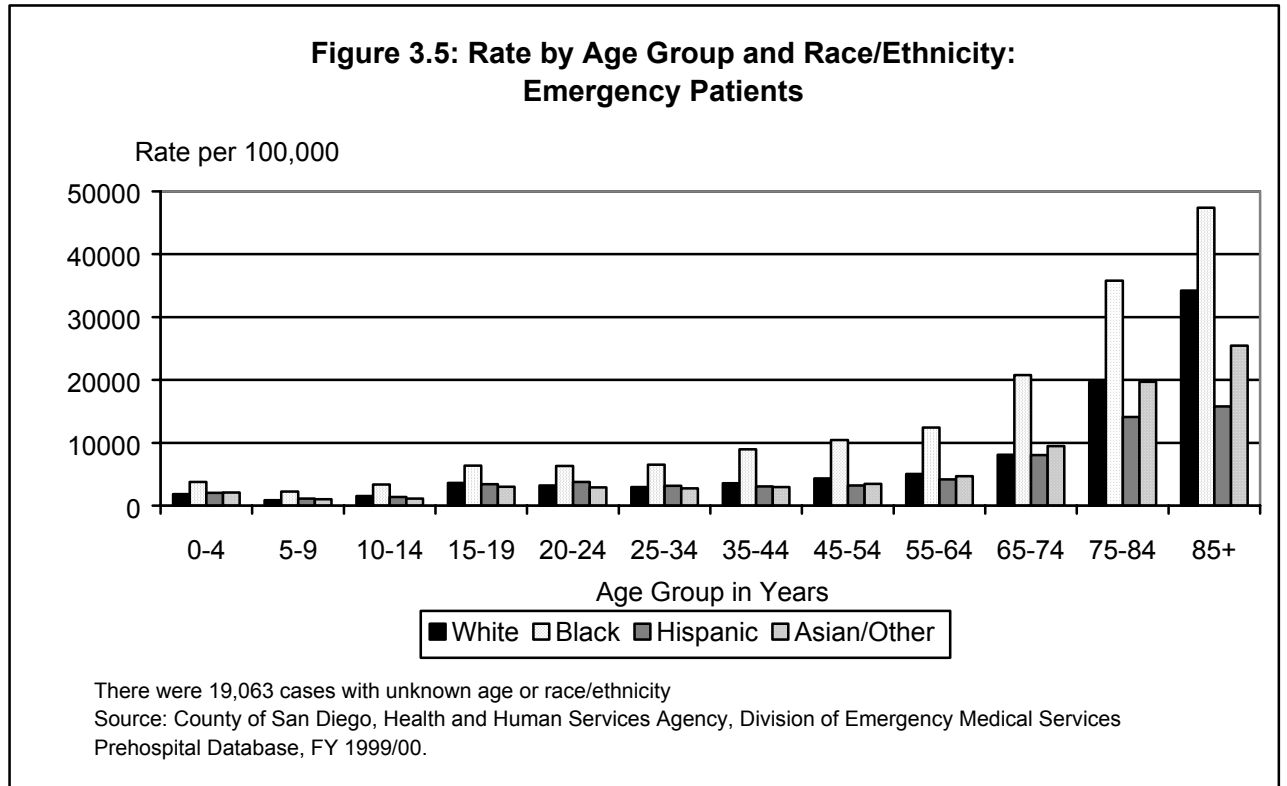
Figure 3.4: Hour of Call by Gender: Emergency Patients



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.
1688 calls had unknown call times.

Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity

There was a considerable increase in number of emergency patients for all racial/ethnic groups beyond age 65, which was similar to the pattern for all patients. Blacks used ambulance services at a significantly greater rate than other racial/ethnic groups regardless of age.

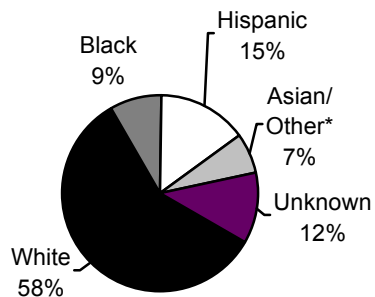


Race/Ethnicity of Patients

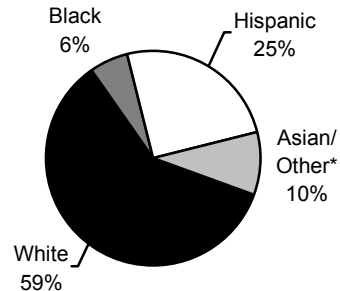
Compared with the countywide population distribution, Blacks constituted a larger proportion of emergency patients. The low proportion of Hispanics among emergency patients means either that these populations underutilized emergency services or that they may have been more likely than others to be classified as “unknown.”

Figure 3.6: Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity of Emergency Patients who Access EMS



Race/Ethnicity of San Diego County Population



*County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 66% Asian, 4% Native American, 32% Other.

There were 18,065 cases with missing race/ethnicity.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00
U.S. Census, SANDAG Demographic Characteristics Estimates, 2000

Table 3.2 shows the incidence and rate per 100,000 population of emergency patients by age group, gender, and race/ethnicity. The highest rates were seen in the elderly and Black populations, while the lowest rates for all ethnicities were seen in the 5-9 year age group. Black females 15 to 44 years of age had significantly higher rates than both Black males and females of other race/ethnicities within the same age range.

Table 3.2: Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Emergency Patients

Age Group in Years		Race/Ethnicity									Total*	
		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		
		Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
0-4	Male	1,011	1,934	348	4,035	1,048	2,283	258	2,197	392	3,057	2,579
	Female	854	1,722	284	3,445	830	1,758	208	1,896	334	2,510	2,163
	Total	1,870	1,836	634	3,759	1,886	2,025	469	2,065	741	5,600	2,387
5-9	Male	574	1,042	218	2,550	526	1,285	126	1,140	218	1,662	1,438
	Female	360	700	159	1,934	352	935	96	911	141	1,108	1,027
	Total	935	878	377	2,248	879	1,119	223	1,033	366	2,780	1,244
10-14	Male	916	1,750	266	3,539	524	1,527	131	1,197	255	2,092	1,990
	Female	657	1,319	230	3,129	367	1,156	111	1,052	184	1,549	1,558
	Total	1,579	1,546	498	3,349	893	1,352	243	1,130	449	3,662	1,790
15-19	Male	1,944	3,994	441	5,535	1,111	3,590	307	2,829	508	4,311	4,379
	Female	1,609	3,247	484	7,368	883	3,161	335	3,174	431	3,742	3,955
	Total	3,560	3,624	928	6,384	2,002	3,400	645	3,013	968	8,103	4,197
20-24	Male	2,146	3,015	482	4,599	1,216	3,691	305	2,522	530	4,679	3,693
	Female	1,800	3,436	586	9,091	1,045	3,805	361	3,357	496	4,288	4,418
	Total	3,957	3,202	1,070	6,321	2,264	3,748	666	2,915	1,051	9,008	4,026
25-34	Male	3,932	2,941	874	5,391	1,978	3,076	532	2,463	851	8,167	3,463
	Female	3,442	2,990	1,062	7,771	1,759	3,226	673	3,035	830	7,766	3,780
	Total	7,383	2,967	1,943	6,503	3,752	3,158	1,212	2,769	1,730	16,020	3,630
35-44	Male	6,038	3,919	1,157	7,910	1,701	3,116	530	2,651	1,107	10,533	4,330
	Female	4,566	3,195	1,289	10,122	1,451	2,952	750	3,147	1,022	9,078	3,971
	Total	10,635	3,581	2,458	8,983	3,164	3,050	1,285	2,932	2,179	19,721	4,179
45-54	Male	5,711	4,623	949	10,127	1,174	3,467	519	3,365	1,038	9,391	5,155
	Female	4,522	3,934	947	10,728	988	2,927	673	3,527	869	7,999	4,529
	Total	10,262	4,303	1,898	10,430	2,172	3,212	1,199	3,475	1,938	17,469	4,869
55-64	Male	4,175	5,346	599	12,656	723	4,171	488	5,125	697	6,682	6,092
	Female	3,723	4,707	593	12,063	792	4,133	534	4,345	682	6,324	5,477
	Total	7,923	5,040	1,198	12,416	1,522	4,170	1,027	4,708	1,403	13,073	5,806
65-74	Male	5,152	8,217	489	20,123	799	8,270	600	10,979	878	7,918	9,866
	Female	5,699	7,978	598	21,266	960	7,778	723	8,475	1,038	9,018	9,481
	Total	10,883	8,114	1,089	20,775	1,768	8,035	1,328	9,488	1,965	17,033	9,712
75-84	Male	7,634	19,431	328	32,767	718	14,487	560	21,423	1,115	10,355	21,636
	Female	10,875	19,764	541	37,596	934	13,705	739	18,406	1,567	14,656	21,779
	Total	18,553	19,672	873	35,779	1,660	14,102	1,305	19,686	2,732	25,123	21,817
85+	Male	4,156	34,677	95	37,549	251	13,114	247	26,732	550	5,299	35,149
	Female	8,292	33,850	290	51,878	517	17,413	331	24,446	962	10,392	35,373
	Total	12,486	34,226	385	47,414	771	15,789	580	25,461	1,545	15,767	35,468
Unk	Male	234	---	49	---	81	---	17	---	70	451	---
	Female	189	---	30	---	53	---	28	---	57	357	---
	Total	452	---	81	---	137	---	48	---	998	1,716	---
Total	Male	43,623	4,941	6,295	6,860	11,850	3,188	4,620	3,494	8,209	74,597	5,045
	Female	46,588	5,444	7,093	8,673	10,931	3,117	5,562	3,845	8,613	78,787	5,498
	Total	90,478	5,204	13,432	7,740	22,870	3,166	10,230	3,695	18,065	155,075	5,326

Note: Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity. Rates not calculated if age is unknown.

This table does not include 1,691 cases with an unknown gender.

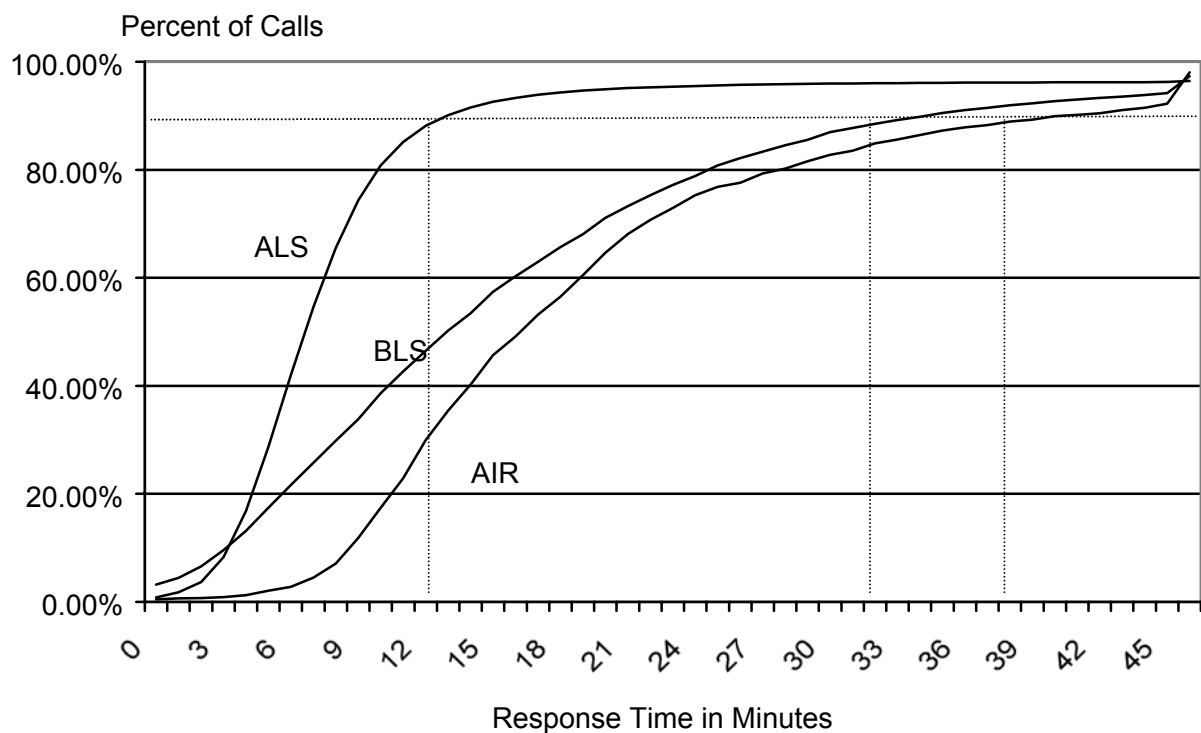
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00.

Response Times

Response time is frequently used as a benchmark for emergency medical response systems. San Diego County incorporated a planned ground ALS response time goal of 10 minutes 90% of the time for metropolitan and urban areas, and a goal of 30 minutes 90% of the time in rural areas. Because of the varied terrain throughout the region and because of the restrictions imposed by weather, there has not been a County standard developed for the evaluation of air medical emergency response times.

The following graph shows aggregate response times. Individually, agencies that comprise the EMS system demonstrated compliance in both ALS and BLS system goals. Air medical response time data were also presented for reference. The median response times for ALS, BLS, and Air agencies were 7, 13, and 16 minutes, respectively. Because the data included some runs with unknown response time values, the graph lines do not reach 100%.

**Figure 3.7: Response Time in Minutes:
Emergency Patients***

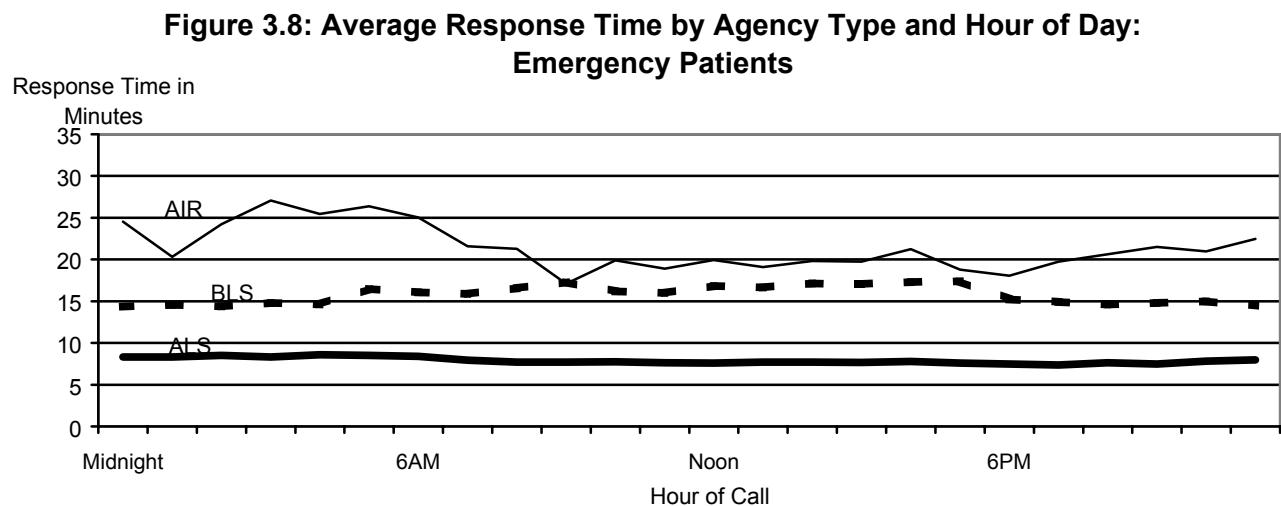


*All call outcomes of transports, AMA, release, DOS, and aid unnecessary.
5,198 calls did not have response time recorded.
26 calls did not have an agency type.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services,
Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Response Times and Agency Type by Hour of Day

Response time was a reflection of system utilization and resource availability. Optimally, EMS systems should match predicted utilization with the resources needed to respond quickly. The following graph demonstrates that ALS systems seem to do a good job of matching utilization with resource availability, most likely because ALS systems generally used advanced dispatch systems, and they responded mostly within compact urban areas. BLS providers demonstrated longer, and more varied response times by hour of call due to the difficulties of responding over larger geographic areas. Air medical response times could have been a reflection of daily cyclical weather influences (for example, morning fog).



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database FY 1999/00
All call outcomes of transport, AMA, release, DOS, and aid unnecessary.
1,688 calls had unknown call times, 5,198 calls had unknown response times, and 26 calls did not have agency type.

Chief Complaint

The paramedic or EMT who completes the information in the prehospital patient record selects the most appropriate chief complaint for each patient from the following list. This is meant to describe the types of conditions experienced by each patient. While this information is not intended to be diagnostic, it is critical for epidemiologic surveillance of the general types of calls to which the emergency medical system responds.

Abdominal Pain	Airway Obstruction	Allergic Reaction
Altered Neurologic (Diabetes)	Altered Neurologic (Medical)	Asthma
Birth	Burn	Chest Pain Cardiac
Chest Pain Other	CHF	COPD
CPR Medical	CPR Medical Bystander	CVA
Drown/Diving	Environmental	ETOH/Sub Abuse
Extreme Pain Medical	Fever Flu Rash	GI/GU
Hazardous Material/Toxic	Headache Medical	Hemodialysis
Neck Back Medical	OB/GYN	OD Poison
Other Medical	Palpitations	Psychiatric
Seizure	Respiratory Distress	Syncope
CPR Trauma	CPR Trauma Bystander	Trauma Extremity
Trauma Head/Neck	Trauma Torso	Other Trauma

Chief Complaint by Age Group

There were predictable trends in the distribution of emergency patients by chief complaint and age group. Table 3.3 shows the leading chief complaints by age group. While patients younger than 55 years were most often seen for traumatic chief complaints, cardiac-related chest pain and respiratory distress were the most common chief complaints for patients 55 and older. Children under ten, meanwhile, had high rates for seizure, respiratory distress, and traumatic chief complaints. (See Table 5.1 for complete listing of incidence and rates.)

Table 3.3: Leading Chief Complaints (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients

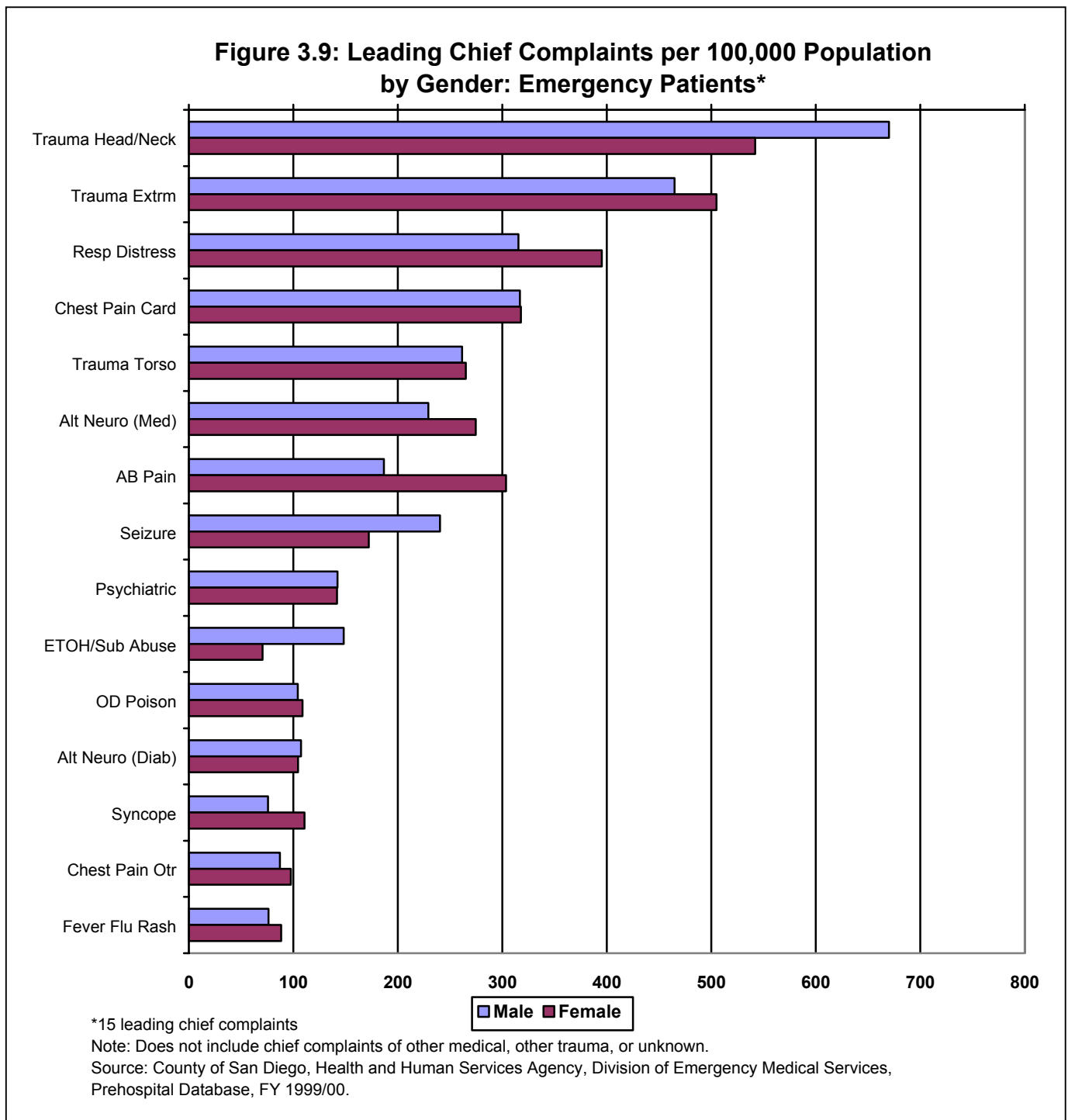
	0-4	5-9	10-14-	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Overall
1	Seizure 451.06	Trauma Head/Neck 344.59	Trauma Head/Neck 418.93	Trauma Head/Neck 982.10	Trauma Head/Neck 862.60	Trauma Head/Neck 629.31	Trauma Head/Neck 535.29	Trauma Head/Neck 508.65	Chest Pain Card 639.12	Chest Pain Card 1048.04	Resp Distress 2246.60	Resp Distress 3585.73	Trauma Head/Neck 610.28
2	Trauma Head/Neck 427.61	Trauma Extrm 227.79	Trauma Extrm 410.13	Trauma Extrm 600.87	Trauma Extrm 515.77	Trauma Extrm 405.42	Trauma Extrm 375.51	Chest Pain Card 406.37	Resp Distress 464.13	Resp Distress 1032.64	Chest Pain Card 1928.76	Trauma Extrm 3378.77	Trauma Extrm 487.62
3	Resp Distress 249.83	Seizure 80.55	Trauma Torso 134.92	Trauma Torso 357.41	Trauma Torso 381.24	Trauma Torso 273.07	Seizure 265.53	Trauma Extrm 347.84	Trauma Head/Neck 440.15	Alt Neuro (Med) 643.19	Alt Neuro (Med) 1770.70	Alt Neuro (Med) 3104.33	Resp Distress 356.38
4	Fever Flu Rash 151.35	Resp Distress 60.42	Seizure 100.21	AB Pain 186.99	AB Pain 258.33	AB Pain 224.58	AB Pain 259.80	AB Pain 267.01	Trauma Extrm 381.52	Trauma Extrm 616.39	Trauma Extrm 1704.70	Chest Pain Card 2274.26	Chest Pain Card 318.57
5	Trauma Extrm 103.17	AB Pain 28.64	Psychiatric 79.68	ETOH/Sub Abuse 185.44	OD Poison 155.54	Seizure 187.18	Trauma Torso 242.21	Trauma Torso 252.52	Alt Neuro (Med) 286.92	Trauma Head/Neck 517.75	Trauma Head/Neck 1089.86	Trauma Head/Neck 2092.05	Trauma Torso 264.64
6	Airway Obstr 85.27	Fever Flu Rash 26.40	Resp Distress 65.50	OD Poison 182.85	Seizure 155.09	Psychiatric 158.86	Psychiatric 217.85	Resp Distress 241.09	AB Pain 251.38	AB Pain 411.69	AB Pain 825.86	AB Pain 1279.97	Alt Neuro (Med) 252.38
7	OD Poison 49.03	Asthma 25.06	AB Pain 45.95	Psychiatric 175.08	ETOH/Sub Abuse 154.20	OD Poison 146.62	Chest Pain Card 187.54	Seizure 238.58	Trauma Torso 241.17	Alt Neuro (Diab) 311.90	CVA 724.26	Trauma Torso 1198.99	AB Pain 245.55
8	Trauma Torso 42.63	Psychiatric 17.90	OD Poison 39.60	Seizure 168.86	OB/GYN 148.39	Resp Distress 116.48	OD Poison 170.80	Psychiatric 198.17	Alt Neuro (Diab) 185.21	Trauma Torso 271.42	Trauma Torso 640.89	CVA 1034.78	Seizure 207.97
9	Burn 30.27	Burn 13.43	ETOH/Sub Abuse 32.26	OB/GYN 96.86	Psychiatric 136.77	ETOH/Sub Abuse 112.17	ETOH/Sub Abuse 159.15	ETOH/Sub Abuse 196.49	Seizure 151.01	CVA 258.30	Syncope 568.81	Syncope 843.57	Psychiatric 143.23
10	Alt Neuro (Med) 26.43	Airway Obstr 12.53	Asthma 29.82	Resp Distress 94.27	Resp Distress 88.94	OB/GYN 97.90	Resp Distress 146.43	Alt Neuro (Med) 193.15	ETOH/Sub Abuse 142.13	Syncope 257.16	Alt Neuro (Diab) 521.05	GI/GU 728.84	ETOH/Sub Abuse 110.73

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database 1999/00

Table excludes Other Medical (30,089) (1033.47/100,000), Other Trauma (5332) (183.14/100,000) and Unknown (1844) (63.34/100,000) categories.

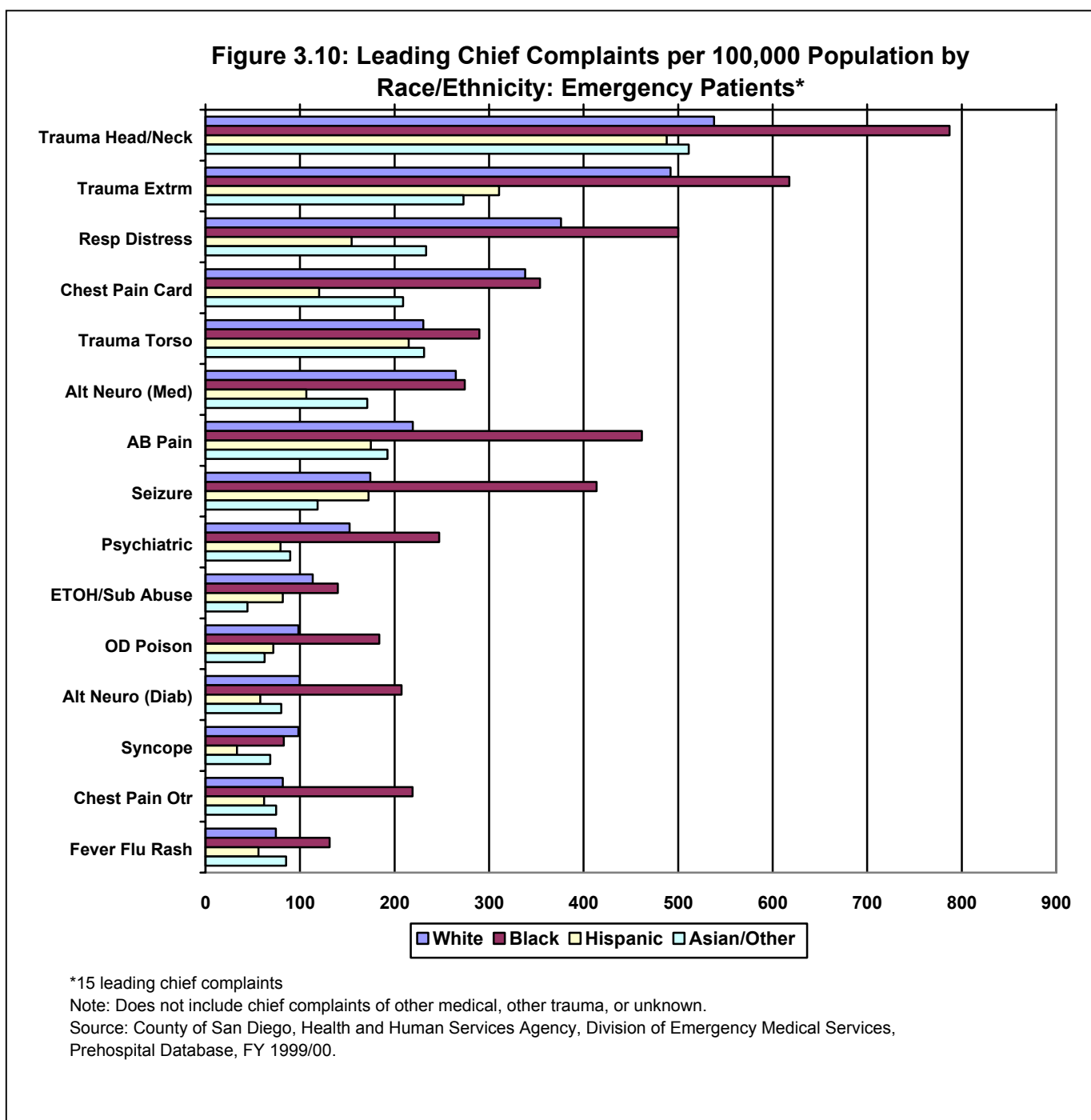
Chief Complaint by Gender

Males and females utilized emergency ambulance services in approximately equal numbers, although there were differences seen among the various chief complaints recorded in the Prehospital database. Females accounted for 61% of abdominal pain complaints, while males made up 68% of alcohol/substance abuse and 59% of seizure complaints. (See Table 5.2 for complete listing)



Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity

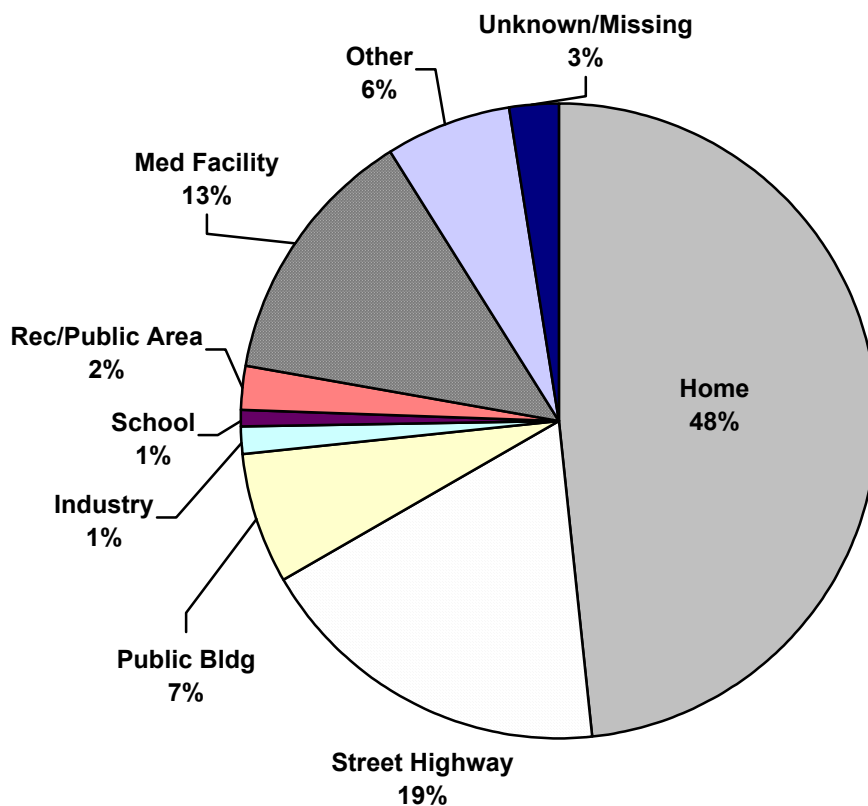
The emergency ambulance utilization rate among Blacks (7,740/100,000) was higher than Whites and more than twice the rate for Hispanics and Asian/Other populations. This was true not only for emergency medical complaints in general, but for almost every medical complaint listed. The only complaints for which a different racial/ethnic group had similar rates were cardiovascular-type complaints in the White population. Of all chief complaints those that stand out in the Black population include: abdominal pain (462/100,000), asthma (141/100,000), OB/GYN (165/100,000), OD poison (184/100,000), psychiatric (247/100,000), seizure (414/100,000), respiratory distress (500/100,000), and trauma complaints (trauma extremity, head/neck, torso, and other; 618, 787, 290, and 232 per 100,000 respectively). (See Table 5.3 for complete listing).



Chief Complaint by Incident Location

The location to which prehospital personnel respond is closely related to the type of chief complaint. With the majority of calls being medical in nature, ambulances responded most often to homes. In 19% of cases, emergency crews responded to street/highways, owing largely to the high proportion of traumatic chief complaints resulting from motor vehicle crashes. (See Table 5.4 for complete listing)

Figure 3.11
Incident Location: Emergency Patients

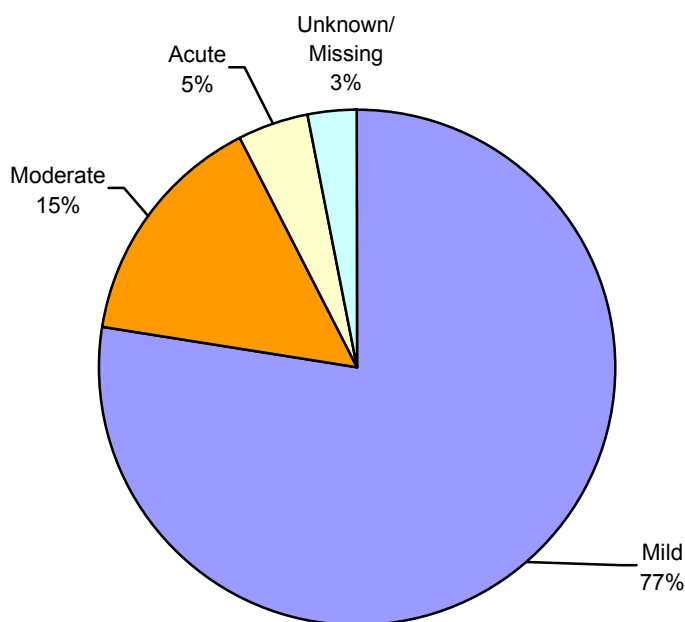


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Chief Complaint by Patient Status

Prehospital personnel report patient status/acyuity as either mild, moderate, or acute. Seventy-seven percent of patients were categorized into “mild” status, indicating that the patient has stable vitals signs with no apparent threat to life or limb. “Moderate” status patients, those with suspected threat to life or limb needing immediate evaluation by medical personnel, made up 15% of patients. Chief complaints more likely to be coded as moderate status included cardio-pulmonary complaints not requiring CPR, respiratory distress, and altered neurological function. Five percent of emergency patients were “acute,” meaning that the patient had an apparent need for immediate intervention to protect life or limb. The majority of patients in acute status had CPR-related chief complaints. (See Table 5.5 for complete listing)

Figure 3.12:
Patient Status: Emergency Patients

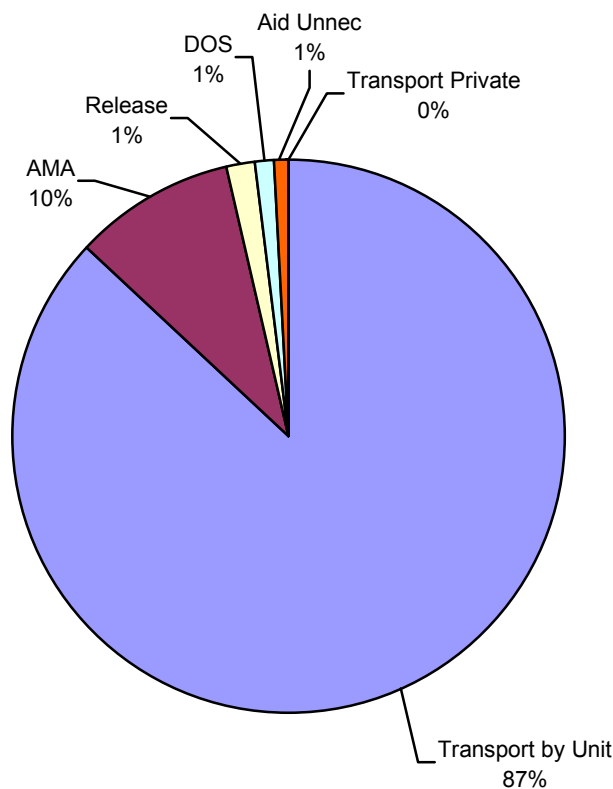


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Chief Complaint by Run Outcome

Prehospital personnel transported 87% of emergency patients to the emergency department of a receiving hospital. Ten percent refused transport against medical advice (AMA). Chief complaints for patients who were more likely to sign out AMA included airway obstruction (31%), altered neurological function related to diabetes (34%) and environmental (31%). One percent did not require medical aid (Aid Unnecessary), 1% were treated and released, 1% were dead on scene (DOS), and 0.09% were transported to a health care facility in a private vehicle. (See Table 5.6 for complete listing)

Figure 3.13:
Run Outcome: Emergency Patients



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Cause of Injury

Patients who have traumatic or other injuries (e.g., poisoning), are categorized according to their external cause of injury. Forty four percent of all reported causes of injury were transportation-related, while 33% resulted from falls. The leading types of injury were strongly associated with demographic characteristics, with falls being most common among the elderly and very young, motorcycle crashes overwhelmingly male, and penetrating injuries (firearm, cut/stab) occurring most often among 15-24 year old males and minorities. (See Tables 5.7 – 5.12 for complete listings)

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO)	Motorcycle	All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
Pedalcycle	Pedestrian	Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) Other
Other Transportation	Fire-Burn	Firearm
Stab	Blunt	Fall
Assault-Battery	Poison-Bite-Sting	Suffocation
Drown-Submersion	Other Struck-Hit-Kick	Other
Unknown		

Cause of Injury by Age Group

Motor vehicle crashes were the number one cause of injury overall and for every age group from 5 to 54 years. Falls were the leading cause of injury for patients under five and over 54, reaching rates near 5,500 per 100,000 for individuals over the age of 85. The distribution of patients by age grouping followed a predictable pattern for many causes of injury. Motorcycle, firearm, and stabbing injuries had their highest incidence among patients in age groupings from 15 to 44 years. (See Table 5.7 for complete listing)

Table 3.4: Leading Causes of Injury (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients

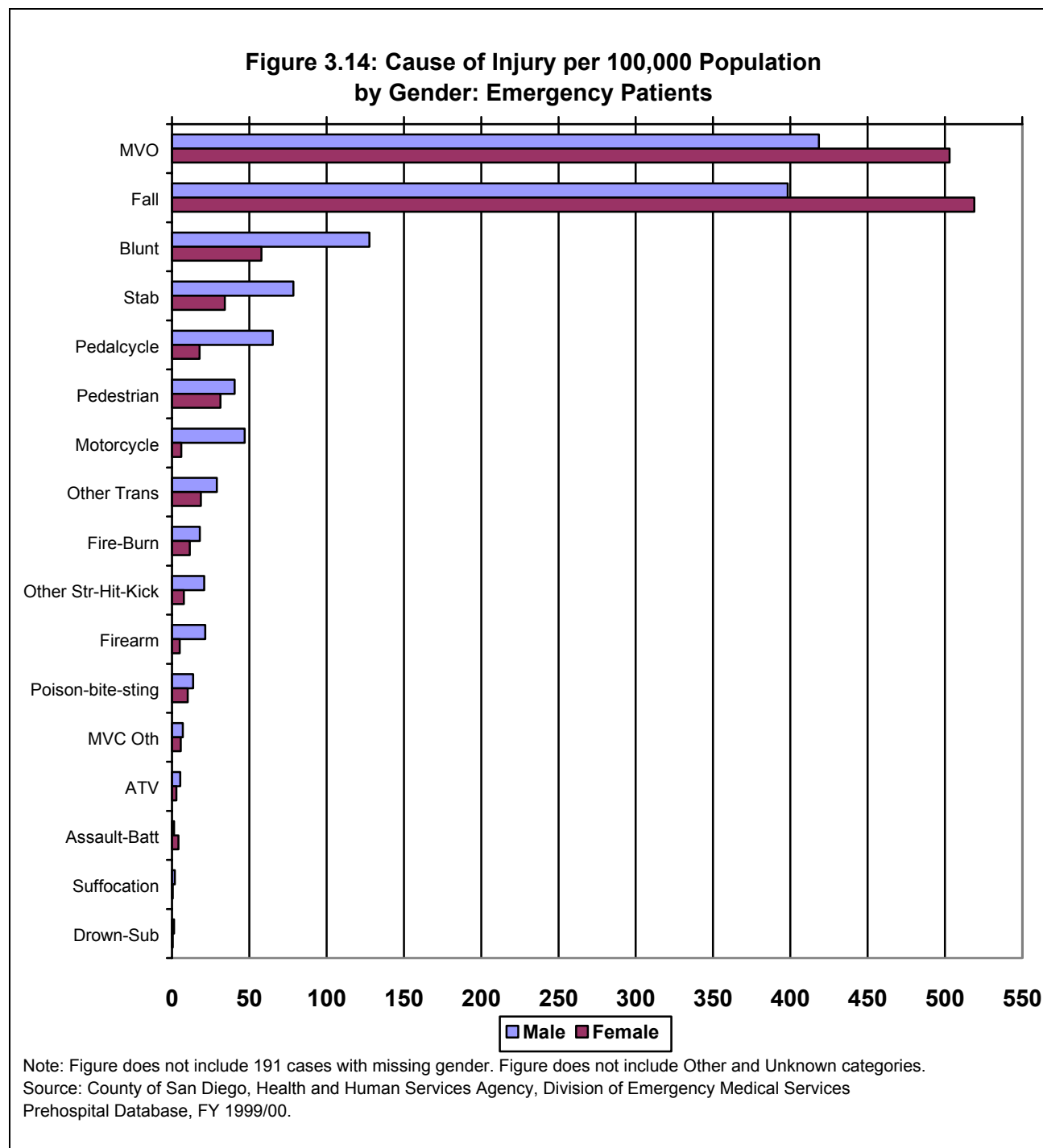
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Overall
1	Fall 298.01	MVO 191.54	MVO 219.48	MVO 1032.87	MVO 903.28	MVO 584.90	MVO 448.62	MVO 425.32	Fall 434.37	Fall 851.89	Fall 2576.59	Fall 5488.82	MVO 462.76
2	MVO 152.63	Fall 180.35	Fall 208.73	Fall 204.09	Blunt 191.74	Fall 179.93	Fall 239.25	Fall 329.44	MVO 351.76	MVO 319.32	MVO 384.71	MVO 267.69	Fall 459.53
3	Pedestrian 27.71	Pedalcycle 67.58	Pedalcycle 123.19	Blunt 197.35	Fall 185.93	Blunt 144.35	Blunt 121.00	Blunt 73.30	Blunt 47.08	Pedestrian 32.50	Blunt 33.87	Blunt 38.24	Blunt 93.90
4	Blunt 23.45	Pedestrian 55.05	Other Trans 69.41	Stab 111.89	Stab 129.17	Stab 79.32	Stab 75.02	Pedalcycle 39.86	Pedestrian 27.09	Stab 20.53	Pedestrian 30.39	Stab 31.49	Stab 56.81
5	Fire-Burn 23.45	Stab 27.30	Blunt 64.04	Pedalcycle 73.04	Motorcycle 66.15	Motorcycle 46.46	Pedalcycle 37.30	Stab 35.12	Stab 24.43	Blunt 19.96	Stab 26.92	Pedestrian 26.99	Pedalcycle 42.01
6	Stab 22.17	Blunt 26.40	Pedestrian 58.66	Other Trans 54.39	Pedalcycle 38.44	Pedalcycle 37.39	Motorcycle 31.15	Pedestrian 31.22	Pedalcycle 18.21	Other Trans 14.83	Other Trans 17.37	Other Trans 18.00	Pedestrian 36.37
7	Other Str-Hit-Kick 11.51	Other Trans 19.24	Other Str-Hit-Kick 32.75	Pedestrian 45.06	Pedestrian 34.86	Pedestrian 33.77	Pedestrian 29.88	Motorcycle 31.22	Motorcycle 17.32	Pedalcycle 11.97	Pedalcycle 13.89	Pedalcycle 11.25	Motorcycle 27.07
8	Poison-bite-sting 11.08	Poison-bite-sting 12.53	Stab 31.29	Motorcycle 40.40	Other Trans 31.73	Firearm 23.34	Other Trans 18.44	Other Trans 16.17	Fire-Burn 11.55	MVC Oth 8.55	Poison-bite-sting 9.55	Firearm 9.00	Other Trans 24.04
9	Pedalcycle 9.81	Other Str-Hit-Kick 12.08	Motorcycle 12.22	Firearm 38.85	Firearm 27.26	Other Trans 21.08	Fire-Burn 16.74	Fire-Burn 13.94	Other Trans 9.77	Fire-Burn 7.41	Firearm 7.82	ATV 9.00	Fire-Burn 14.98
10	Other Trans 8.95	Fire-Burn 8.95	Poison-bite-sting 8.80	Other Str-Hit-Kick 38.33	Fire-Burn 17.43	Fire-Burn 19.26	Poison-bite-sting 13.99	Poison-bite-sting 12.82	Other Str-Hit-Kick 7.55	Motorcycle 6.84	Fire-Burn 6.08	Fire-Burn 6.75	Other Str-Hit-Kick 14.39

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database 1999/00

Table excludes Other (2121) (72.85/100,000) and Unknown (865) (29.71/100,000) categories.

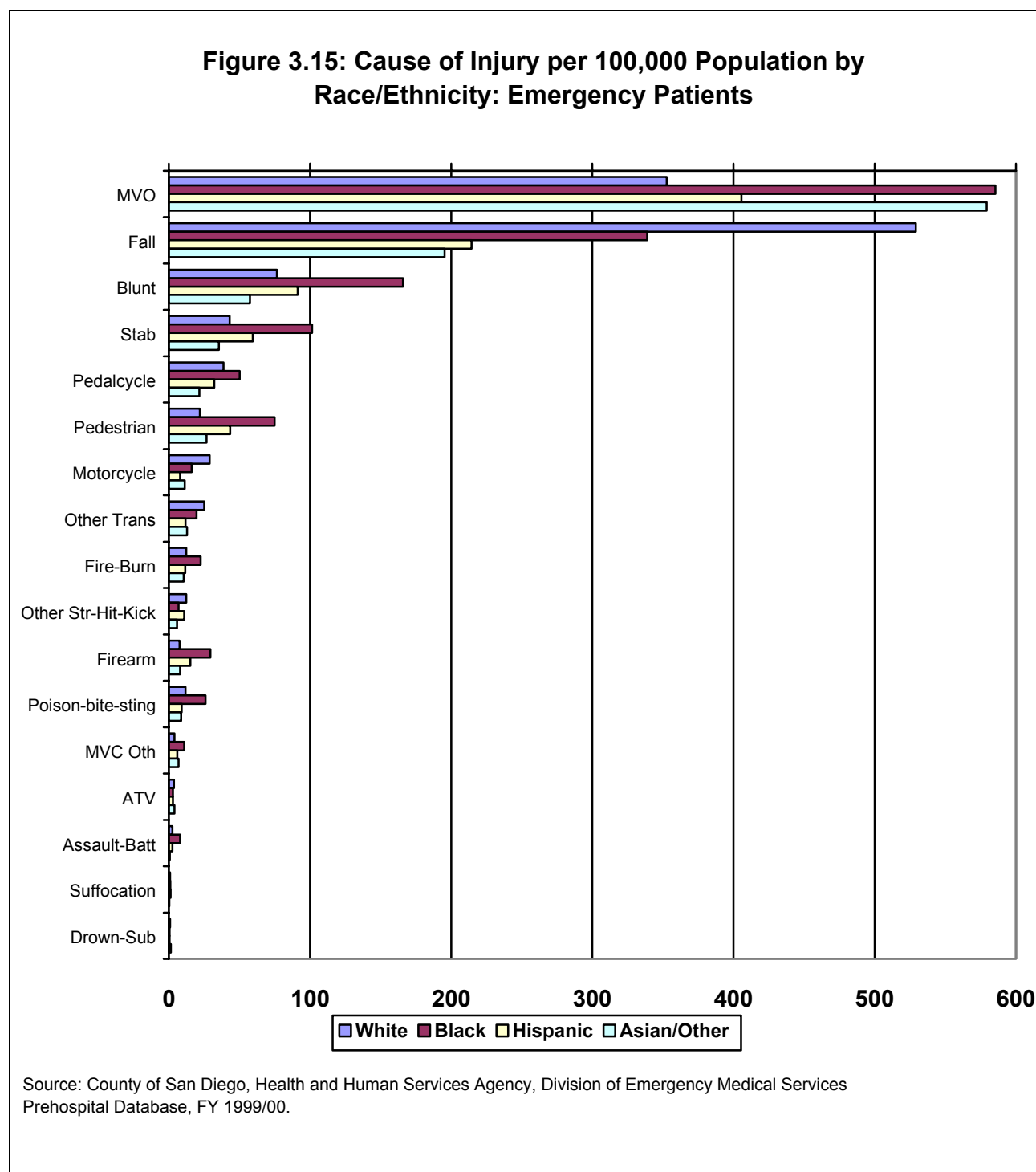
Cause of Injury by Gender

Among emergency patients, the majority of injury patients were male, outnumbering females in all causes of injury except motor vehicle occupant injuries, falls, and assault/battery. The cause of injury category showing the greatest disparity between males and females was motorcycle crash, which was 88% male. Note that the MVO and Motorcycle data shown here combined injuries sustained by both drivers and passengers. (See Table 5.8 for complete listing)



Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity

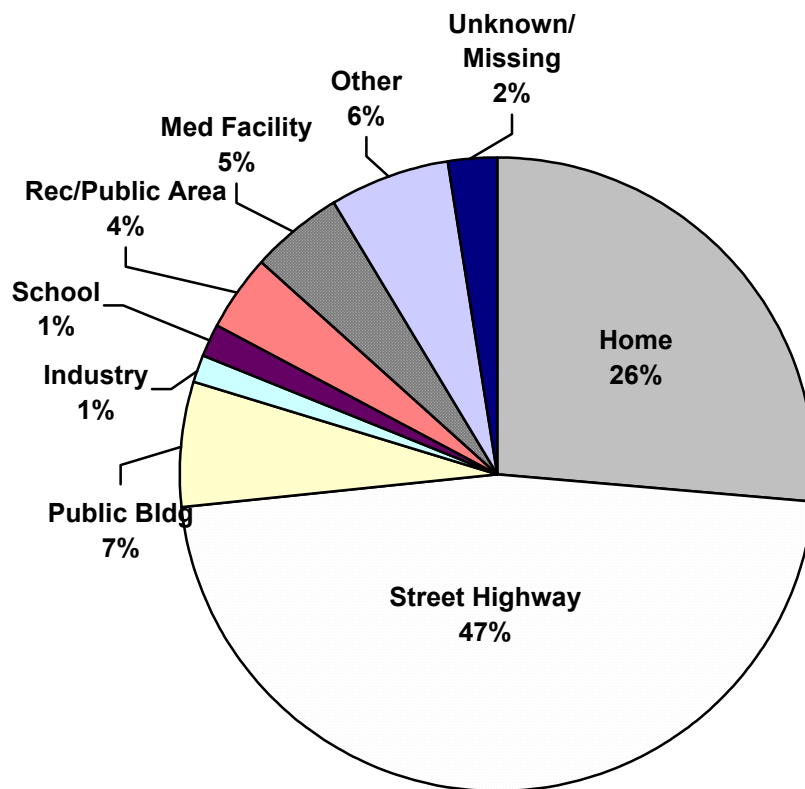
Figure 3.15 shows the race/ethnicity-specific rate (per 100,000 population) for the occurrence of each of the major causes of injury. The Black population experienced the highest injury rates overall (7,740/100,000), with a rate for poison-bite-sting injuries that was twice as high than any other race/ethnic group. Falls were particularly high among the White population, due to a much higher proportion of elderly. (See Table 5.9 for complete listing)



Cause of Injury by Incident Location

With the exception of motor vehicle incidents, most emergency responses for injuries were to homes. A home was the location for 54% of fire-burns, 53% suffocation, 50% of poison-bite-stings, 50% of falls, and 48% of assault-battery. Note that the high incidence of various causes of injury reported at medical facilities was most likely due to triage or re-triage decisions made at medical clinics and non-trauma centers to transport the patient on an emergency basis to a higher level of care. (See Table 5.10 for a complete listing)

Figure 3.16
Incident Location:
Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated

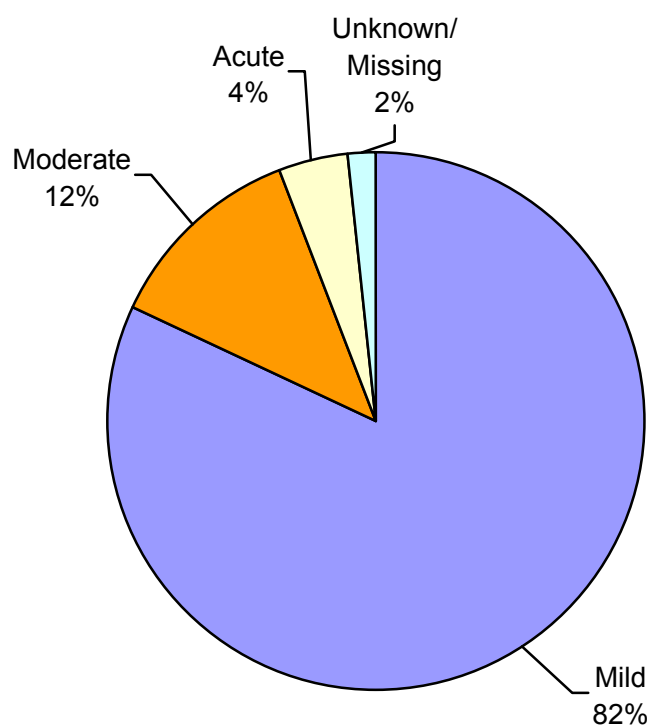


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Cause of Injury by Patient Status

As seen in Figure 3.17, 82% of injured patients with a known cause of injury were reported to be in mild status. The causes of injury associated with the highest percentages of patients in acute status include suffocation (44%), drown-submersion (44%), and firearm (32%). (See Table 5.11 for complete listing)

**Figure 3.17:
Patient Status:
Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated**

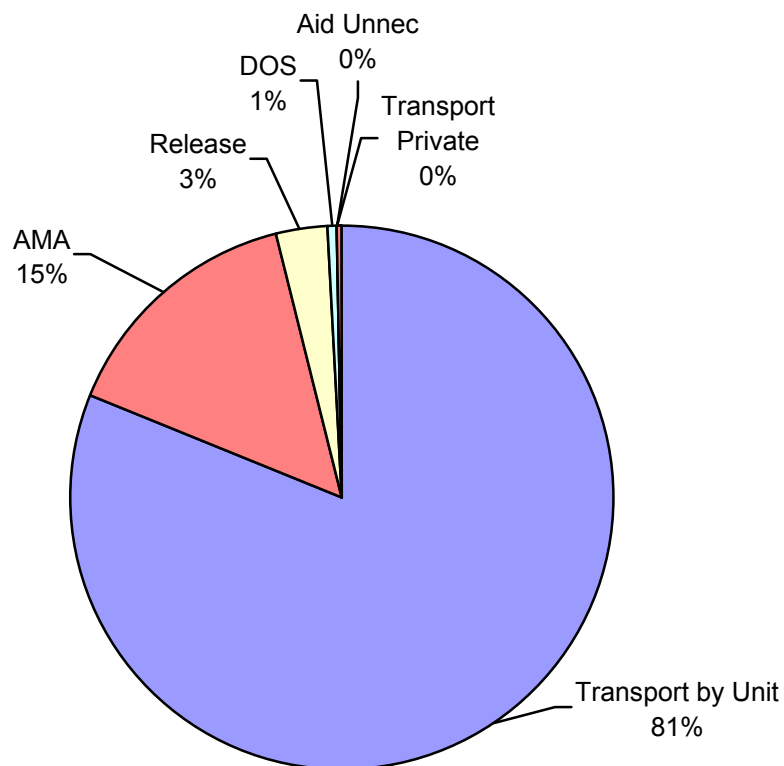


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Cause of Injury by Run Outcome

Eighty-one percent of patients with a documented cause of injury were transported by ambulance. Causes of injury with a high probability of the patient leaving AMA included motor vehicle occupant crashes (21%), fire-burn (20%), blunt trauma (20%), and poison-bite-sting (20%). (See Table 5.12 for complete listing)

Figure 3.18:
Run Outcome:
Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

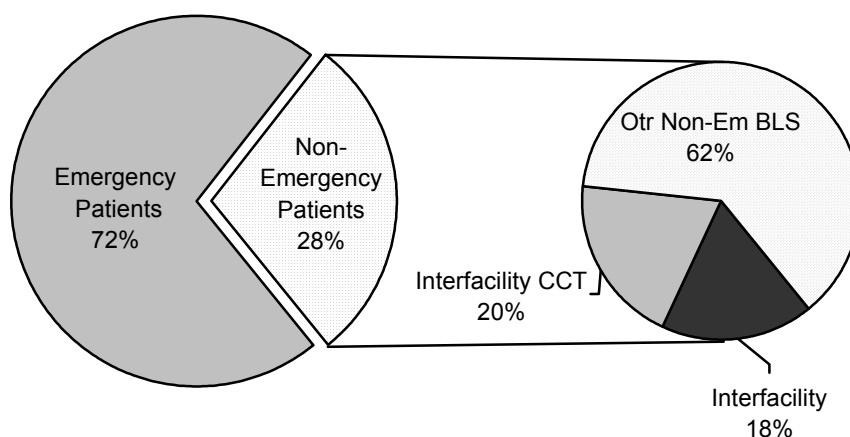
Section 4

Non-Emergency Patients

Prehospital Activity: Non-Emergency Patients

During fiscal year 1999-00, 28% of prehospital patients were classified as non-emergency according to their ambulance run outcomes. The outcomes that are defined as non-emergency include interfacility transfer (18%), interfacility CCT (20%), and other non-emergency BLS (62%).

Figure 4.1
Run Disposition: Non-Emergency Patients



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Non-Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas

The subregional areas with the highest rates of non-emergency patient transports correspond with those that have the oldest populations in the county (Harbison Crest, La Mesa; Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Non-Emergency Patients

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total*	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	AIR	Other/ Unk			
Alpine	0	38	0	0	38	13,878	274
Anza-Borrego Springs	0	77	0	0	77	3,754	2,051
Carlsbad	4	210	0	0	214	98,175	218
Central San Diego	66	8611	4	1	8682	165,602	5,243
Chula Vista	14	4542	0	0	4556	107,385	4,243
Coastal	28	4239	0	0	4267	81,693	5,223
Coronado	0	495	1	0	496	24,673	2,010
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3	305	0	0	308	141,902	217
El Cajon	14	1512	0	1	1527	122,743	1,244
Elliott-Navajo	35	6144	0	0	6179	95,494	6,471
Escondido	35	5159	2	0	5196	143,964	3,609
Fallbrook	8	368	4	0	380	44,914	846
Harbison Crest	6	1441	0	0	1447	15,865	9,121
Jamul	0	40	0	0	40	13,339	300
Kearny Mesa	61	6836	0	1	6898	153,648	4,489
La Mesa	11	4755	1	0	4767	61,439	7,759
Laguna-Pine Valley	0	11	0	0	11	5,682	194
Lakeside	6	76	0	0	82	56,567	145
Lemon Grove	2	196	0	0	198	30,656	646
Mid-City	21	1041	0	0	1062	160,012	664
Miramar	0	21	0	0	21	5,916	355
Mountain Empire	1	15	0	0	16	6,420	249
National City	8	2082	0	0	2090	55,205	3,786
North San Diego	4	1022	0	0	1026	88,356	1,161
Oceanside	312	4208	2	0	4522	150,354	3,008
Palomar-Julian	0	15	0	0	15	6,462	232
Pauma	0	27	0	0	27	6,046	447
Pendleton	0	130	4	0	134	38,784	346
Peninsula	0	302	1	0	303	64,037	473
Poway	9	1633	0	1	1643	83,866	1,959
Ramona	1	166	0	0	167	34,663	482
San Dieguito	4	1967	0	0	1971	89,322	2,207
San Marcos	3	211	0	0	214	67,910	315
Santee	20	126	0	0	146	56,869	257
South Bay	2	333	0	0	335	128,779	260
Southeast San Diego	2	377	0	0	379	159,862	237
Spring Valley	1	185	0	0	186	84,235	221
Sweetwater	0	70	0	0	70	77,072	91
University	2	426	0	0	428	52,872	810
Valley Center	1	25	0	0	26	20,158	129
Vista	6	1116	0	0	1122	92,895	1,208
Out of County	2	107	8	0	117	---	---
Unknown	38	378	11	0	427	---	---
Total	730	61038	38	4	61810	2,911,468	2,119

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

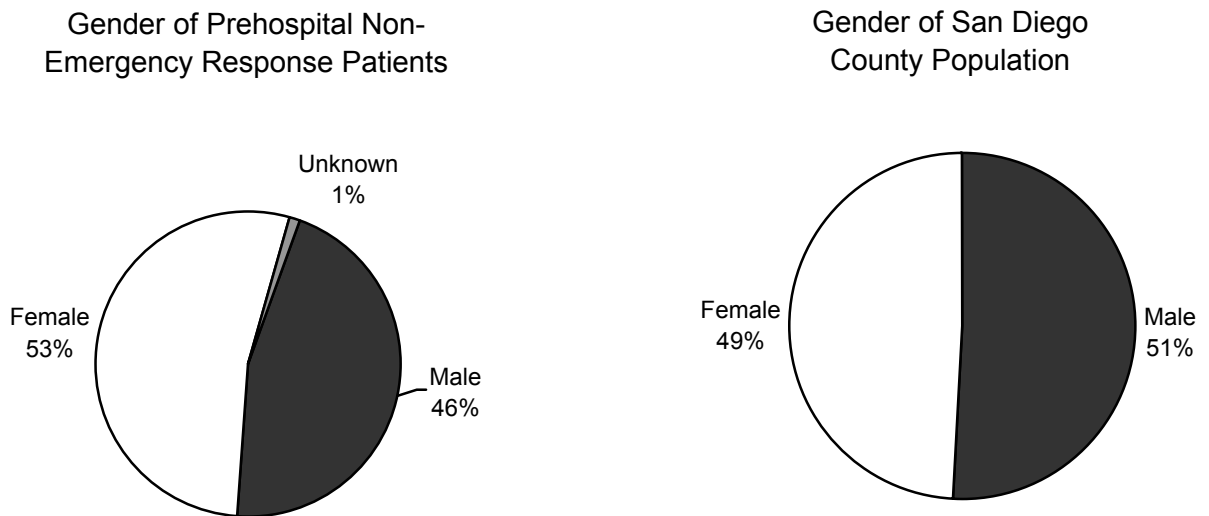
Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

Gender of Non Emergency Patients

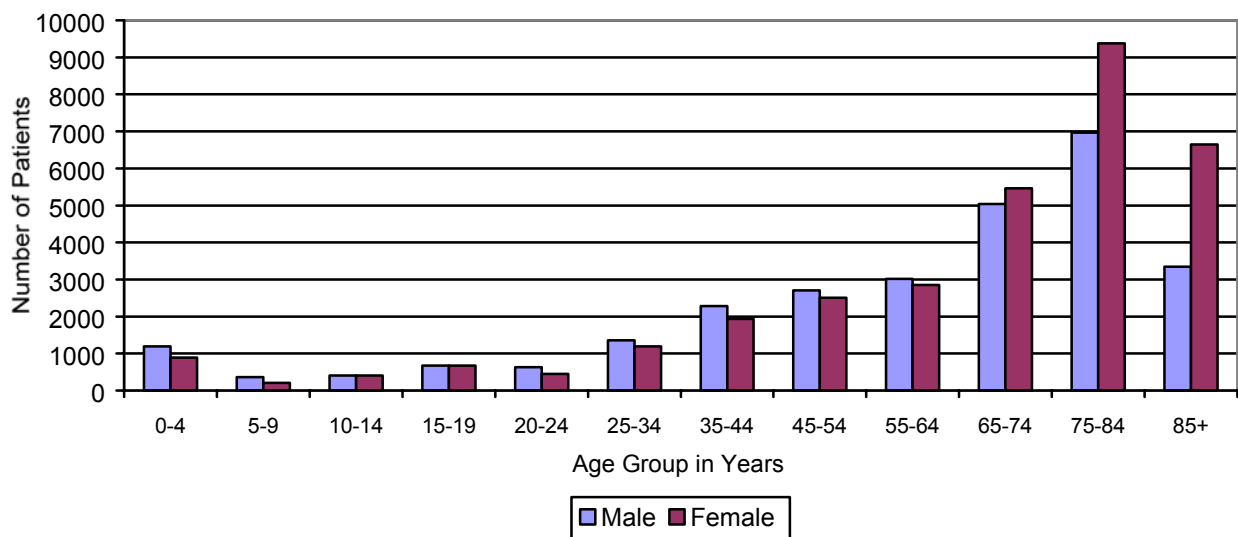
Females made up 53% of non-emergency prehospital patients, but only 49% of the county's overall population (Figure 4.2). This difference was primarily due to the very high proportion of females in the oldest age groups (57% of patients ages 55 and older), who made up 70% of non-emergency patients during the study period (Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.2: Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00
U.S. Census, SANDAG Demographic Characteristics Estimates, 2000

Figure 4.3: Age Group by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients

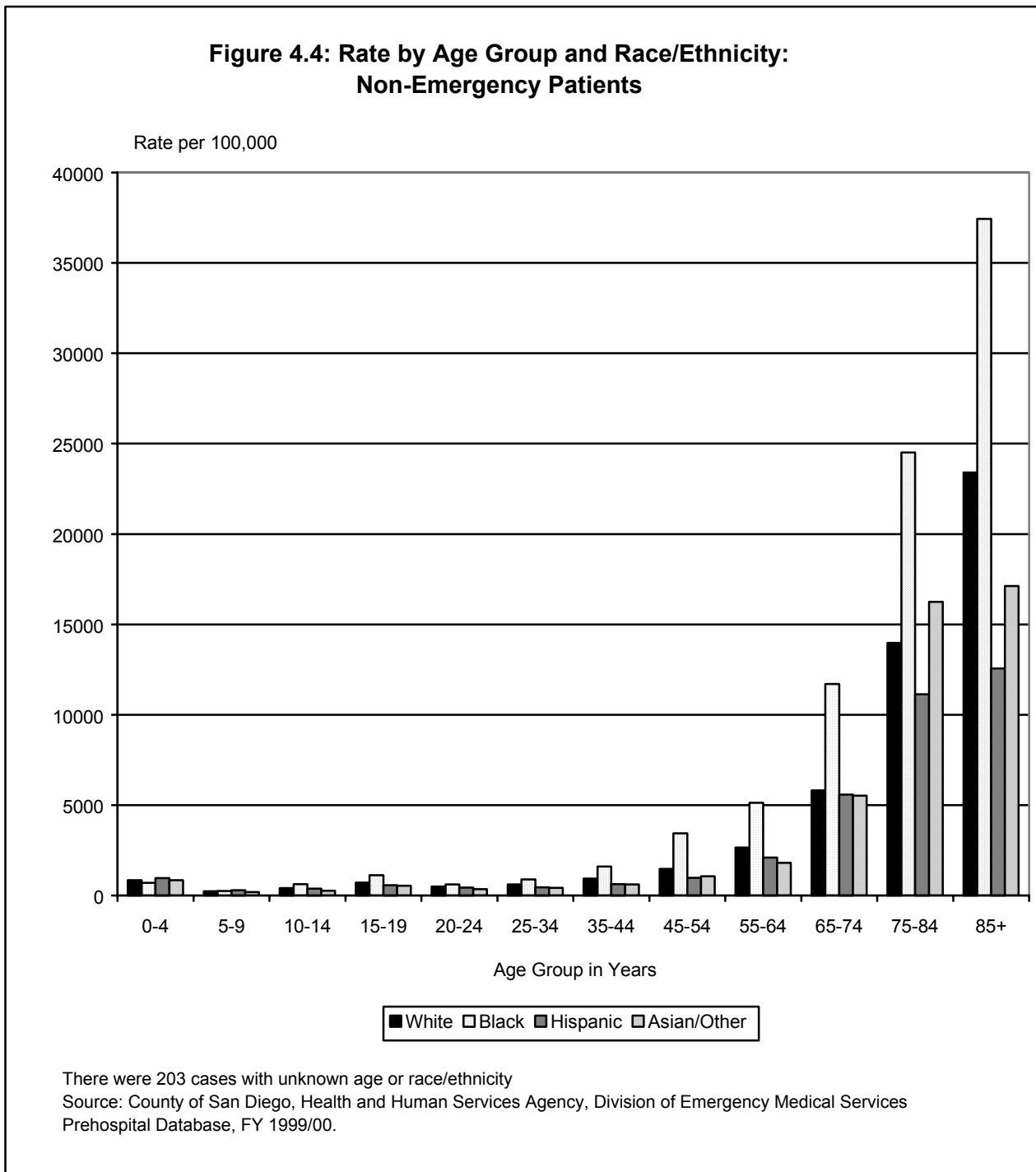


This figure does not include 668 cases with unknown gender

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00

Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity

Similar to what was seen for emergency patients, Blacks had the highest rates of ambulance transports for non-emergency reasons. Ambulance response rates also increased markedly in the older populations, to over 22,500 per 100,000 for patients 85 years and older.

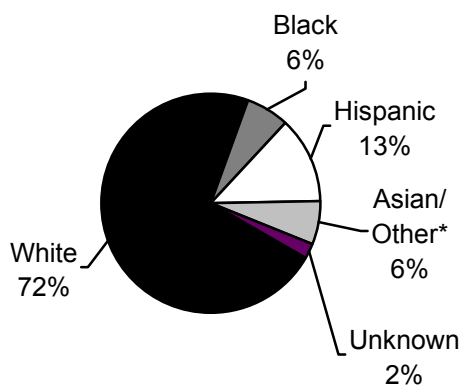


Race/Ethnicity of Non-Emergency Patients

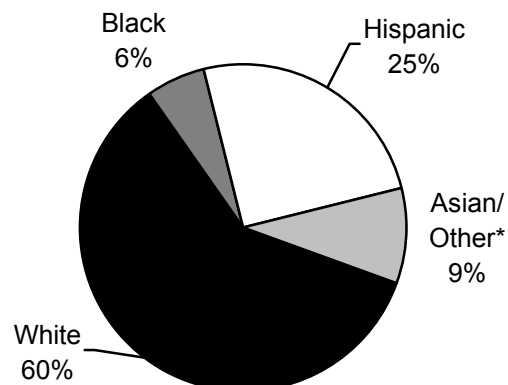
While Blacks had the highest rates of ambulance utilization, White patients still accounted for 72% of non-emergency patients. Hispanics made up a far lower number of non-emergency patients, with 13% of the total, despite comprising 25% of the population.

Figure 4.5: Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity of Patients who Accessed Non-Emergency Medical Services



Race/Ethnicity of San Diego County Population



County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 65% Asian, 4% Native American, 31% Other.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00 U.S. Census, SANDAG Demographic Characteristics Estimates, 2000.

The distribution of non-emergency ambulance patient transports by age, gender and race/ethnicity is similar to that for emergency patients. Males had higher rates in the youngest age groups, while female rates were higher in the oldest age groups. The highest rate (40,072/100,000) was in Black women 85 and older.

Table 4.2 Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Non-Emergency Patients

Age Group in Years		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Total*	
		Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
0-4	Male	482	922	66	765	514	1,120	108	920	1,195	1,008
	Female	373	752	53	643	358	758	83	756	893	770
	Total	861	845	119	705	889	955	193	850	2,135	910
5-9	Male	158	287	27	316	143	349	31	281	365	316
	Female	95	185	14	170	85	226	9	85	208	193
	Total	253	238	41	244	230	293	40	185	576	258
10-14	Male	201	384	37	492	141	411	27	247	409	389
	Female	214	430	54	735	105	331	28	265	405	407
	Total	417	408	93	626	247	374	55	256	820	401
15-19	Male	366	752	64	803	171	553	55	507	673	684
	Female	333	672	96	1,461	164	587	60	569	672	710
	Total	701	714	163	1,121	338	574	116	542	1,360	704
20-24	Male	347	488	69	658	160	486	42	347	629	496
	Female	270	515	34	527	102	371	36	335	451	465
	Total	618	500	103	608	267	442	80	350	1,090	487
25-34	Male	833	623	142	876	272	423	71	329	1,357	575
	Female	686	596	118	863	260	477	110	496	1,194	581
	Total	1,526	613	264	884	537	452	184	420	2,583	585
35-44	Male	1,539	999	221	1,511	360	659	111	555	2,281	938
	Female	1,243	870	210	1,649	285	580	155	650	1,940	849
	Total	2,785	938	438	1,601	653	629	269	614	4,259	903
45-54	Male	1,849	1,497	255	2,721	367	1,084	189	1,225	2,709	1,487
	Female	1,643	1,430	368	4,169	287	850	173	907	2,509	1,421
	Total	3,506	1,470	626	3,440	658	973	366	1,061	5,260	1,466
55-64	Male	2,162	2,768	204	4,310	404	2,331	206	2,163	3,015	2,749
	Female	2,000	2,529	289	5,879	354	1,848	184	1,497	2,853	2,471
	Total	4,171	2,653	495	5,130	764	2,093	393	1,802	5,907	2,624
65-74	Male	3,820	6,093	276	11,358	564	5,837	317	5,801	5,037	6,276
	Female	3,951	5,531	330	11,735	655	5,307	451	5,287	5,462	5,742
	Total	7,800	5,815	613	11,694	1,228	5,581	773	5,523	10,583	6,034
75-84	Male	5,617	14,297	243	24,276	630	12,712	370	14,155	6,966	14,555
	Female	7,513	13,654	352	24,461	670	9,831	697	17,360	9,375	13,932
	Total	13,174	13,969	598	24,508	1,311	11,138	1,077	16,247	16,461	14,295
85+	Male	2,864	23,897	77	30,435	190	9,927	152	16,450	3,344	22,181
	Female	5,649	23,061	224	40,072	418	14,079	237	17,504	6,645	22,619
	Total	8,538	23,404	304	37,438	613	12,554	390	17,120	10,053	22,614
Unknown	Male	149	---	18	---	43	---	15	---	245	---
	Female	190	---	34	---	35	---	25	---	310	---
	Total	346	---	53	---	80	---	41	---	723	---
Total	Male	20,387	2,309	1,699	1,851	3,959	1,065	1,694	1,281	28,225	1,909
	Female	24,160	2,823	2,176	2,661	3,778	1,077	2,248	1,554	32,917	2,297
	Total	44,696	2,571	3,910	2,253	7,815	1,082	3,977	1,436	61,810	2,123

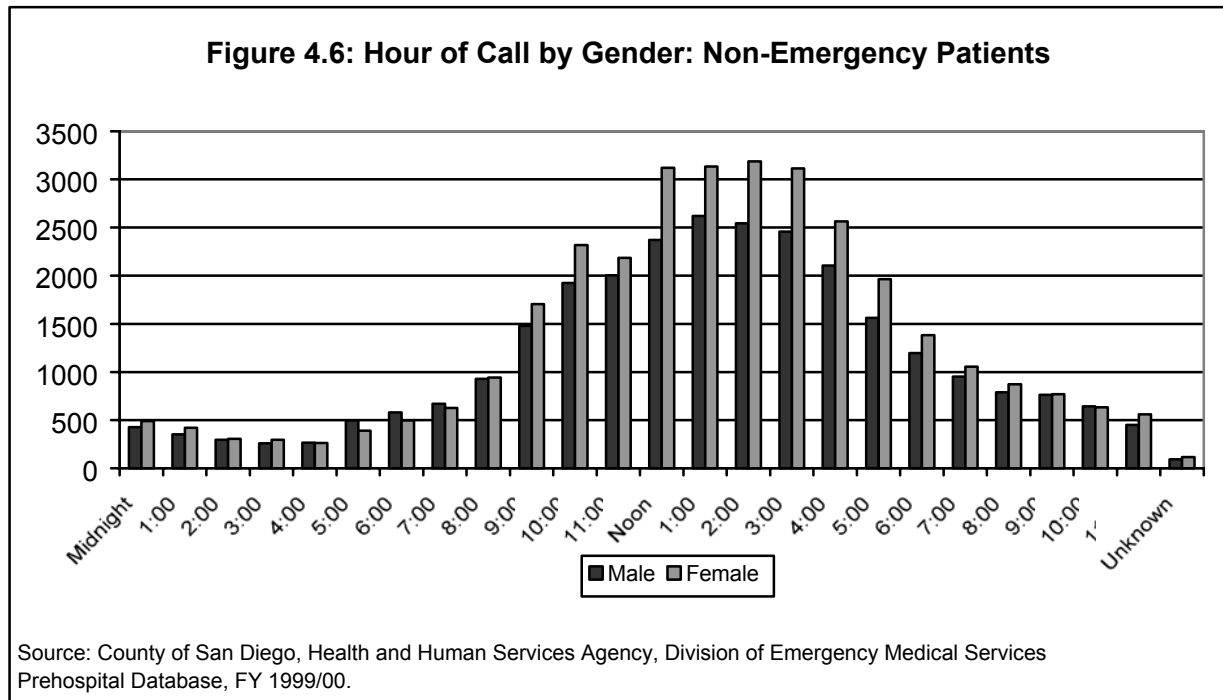
*Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity.

This table does not include 668 cases with an unknown gender.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00.

Hour of Call

Prehospital agencies responded to 73% of non-emergency patients between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm. The majority of patients during this time interval were female (55%).



Chief Complaint by Age Group

Non-emergency patient transports followed recognizable patterns by chief complaint according to age. Patients with complaints involving chronic conditions (e.g., COPD, hemodialysis, CHF) were predominantly elderly, while younger adults made up the majority of OB/GYN, psychiatric, OD poison and substance abuse calls. A few categories of complaints (respiratory distress, fever/flu/rash) were more common in both the very young and the elderly, but less so in the middle aged.

Table 4.3. Chief Complaint by Age Group: Non-Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Age Group in Years													Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Unk	
AB Pain	32	35	41	35	51	113	153	152	115	204	305	152	17	1405
Airway Obstr	11	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	4	2	3	0	29
Aller Reac	3	4	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	4	7	6	0	30
Alt Neuro (Diab)	4	4	8	3	0	1	5	5	8	18	19	8	0	83
Alt Neuro (Med)	10	4	2	6	7	12	41	33	55	130	277	238	5	820
Asthma	36	19	14	11	3	11	20	18	6	6	10	2	3	159
Birth	16	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	25
Burn	18	3	1	3	5	6	25	8	10	7	2	1	2	91
Chest Pain Card	12	1	0	3	7	42	276	603	691	945	899	273	35	3,787
Chest Pain Otr	1	3	1	2	6	16	37	73	57	103	133	52	8	492
CHF	7	0	1	0	0	0	11	23	63	169	286	239	14	813
COPD	2	0	1	0	0	1	5	16	54	135	219	94	10	537
CPR Med	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	0	13
CPR Med Bystnd	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	5
CVA	1	0	1	2	6	9	24	83	173	376	686	335	22	1,718
Drown/Diving	14	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
Environ	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	5
ETOH/Sub Abuse	0	0	1	16	6	24	48	52	27	13	3	0	1	191
Extrm Pain Med	2	5	0	5	8	11	36	56	79	157	242	120	5	726
Fever Flu Rash	67	10	3	5	6	12	21	25	25	46	77	65	3	365
GI/GU	17	0	2	9	6	11	42	50	65	153	304	218	7	884
Haz Mat Tox	0	1	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Headache Med	0	2	2	7	8	20	38	23	23	14	30	6	0	173
Hemodialysis	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	89	231	274	287	45	26	959
Neck Back Med	4	1	2	1	5	34	40	61	61	86	131	57	5	488
OB/GYN	21	0	1	27	43	94	37	10	1	2	6	4	0	246
OD Poison	29	2	22	70	23	61	67	31	20	22	30	11	4	392
Otr Med	854	216	194	284	323	901	1,649	2,489	3,165	6,291	10,077	6,169	370	32,982
Palpitations	3	0	0	1	0	3	5	4	7	10	13	5	1	52
Psychiatric	3	67	365	646	357	830	1,187	896	366	275	283	138	55	5,468
Seizure	110	26	7	14	5	34	45	41	47	43	63	26	4	465
Resp Distress	574	51	20	20	13	41	84	112	206	396	561	368	25	2,471
Syncope	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	9	16	44	47	1	131
CPR Trauma	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CPR Trauma Bystnd	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trauma Extrm	43	40	50	60	49	87	97	100	136	294	584	599	17	2,156
Trauma Head/Neck	61	45	40	56	60	82	96	50	46	80	176	158	5	955
Trauma Torso	8	15	17	20	29	43	39	38	35	85	192	168	7	696
Other Trauma	17	15	12	34	50	62	81	71	65	130	363	342	11	1,253
Unknown	148	5	5	14	6	17	32	35	56	89	145	104	58	714
Total	2,135	576	820	1,360	1,090	2,583	4,259	5,260	5,907	10,583	16,461	10,053	723	61,810

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Chief Complaint by Gender

Chief complaints for non-emergency patients are listed below. Females outnumbered males in most chief complaint categories, although some of the categories including psychiatric complaints, ETOH/substance abuse, and chest pain, were mostly male. Overall (excluding other medical) psychiatric, chest pain cardiac, and respiratory distress had the highest rates.

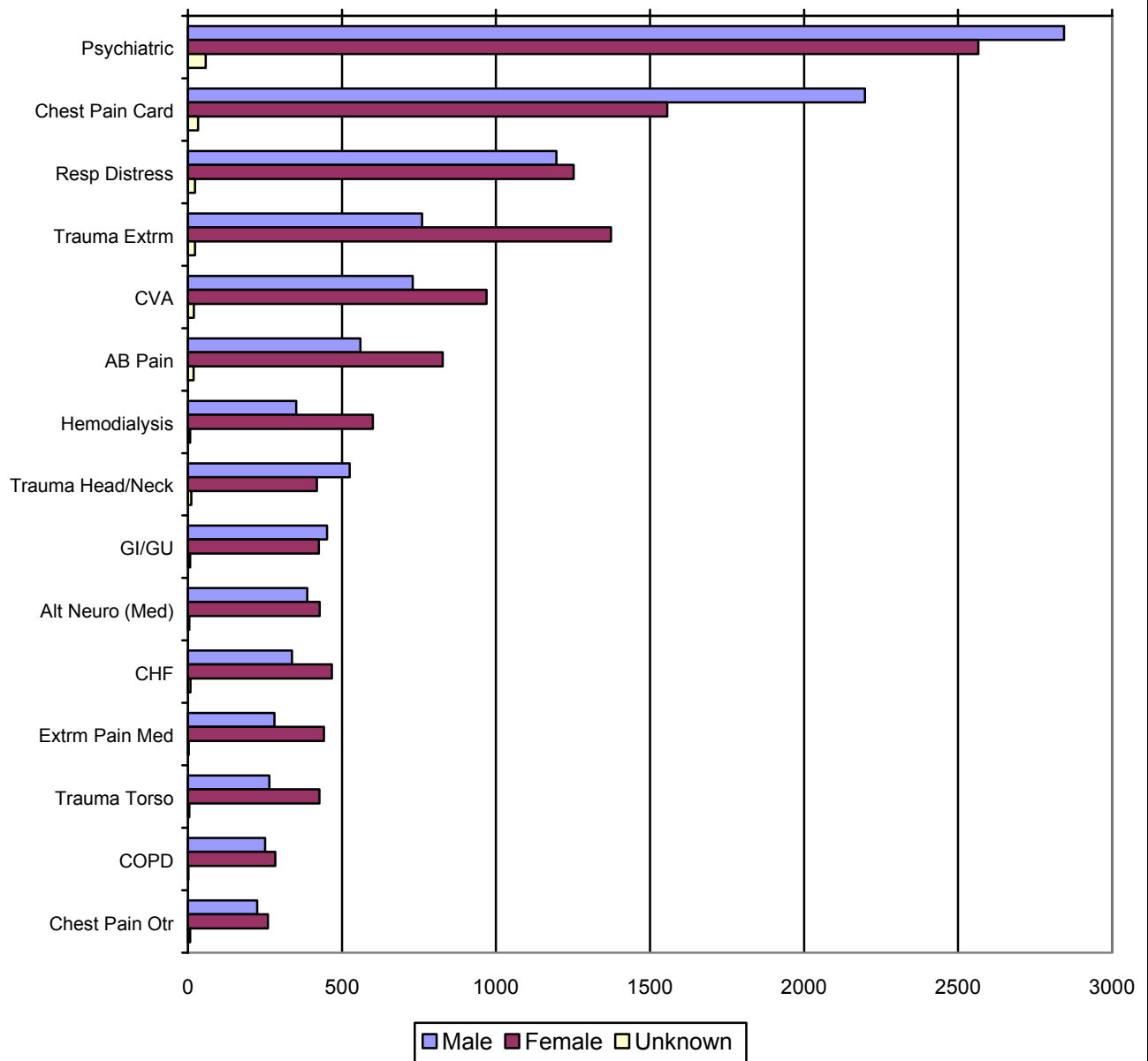
Table 4.4: Chief Complaint by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	560	37.88	827	57.71	18	1,405	48.26
Airway Obstr	13	0.88	16	1.12	0	29	1.00
Aller Reac	9	0.61	21	1.47	0	30	1.03
Alt Neuro (Diab)	38	2.57	45	3.14	0	83	2.85
Alt Neuro (Med)	387	26.17	428	29.87	5	820	28.16
Asthma	69	4.67	89	6.21	1	159	5.46
Birth	7	0.47	16	1.12	2	25	0.86
Burn	72	4.87	18	1.26	1	91	3.13
Chest Pain Card	2,198	148.66	1,556	108.59	33	3,787	130.07
Chest Pain Otr	225	15.22	260	18.14	7	492	16.90
CHF	338	22.86	467	32.59	8	813	27.92
COPD	251	16.98	284	19.82	2	537	18.44
CPR Med	9	0.61	4	*	0	13	0.45
CPR Med Bystnd	4	*	1	*	0	5	0.17
CVA	730	49.37	969	67.62	19	1,718	59.01
Drown/Diving	11	0.74	8	0.56	1	20	0.69
Environ	3	*	2	*	0	5	0.17
ETOH/Sub Abuse	123	8.32	62	4.33	6	191	6.56
Extrm Pain Med	281	19.01	442	30.85	3	726	24.94
Fever Flu Rash	174	11.77	186	12.98	5	365	12.54
GI/GU	452	30.57	425	29.66	7	884	30.36
Haz Mat Tox	6	0.41	3	*	0	9	0.31
Headache Med	83	5.61	86	6.00	4	173	5.94
Hemodialysis	352	23.81	600	41.87	7	959	32.94
Neck Back Med	214	14.47	272	18.98	2	488	16.76
OB/GYN	13	0.88	232	16.19	1	246	8.45
OD Poison	156	10.55	234	16.33	2	392	13.46
Otr Med	14,691	993.61	17,944	1,252.27	347	32,982	1,132.83
Palpitations	26	1.76	26	1.81	0	52	1.79
Psychiatric	2,844	192.35	2,566	179.07	58	5,468	187.81
Seizure	238	16.10	220	15.35	7	465	15.97
Resp Distress	1,196	80.89	1,252	87.37	23	2,471	84.87
Syncope	66	4.46	64	4.47	1	131	4.50
CPR Trauma	0	-	1	*	0	1	*
CPR Trauma Bystnd	1	*	0	-	0	1	*
Trauma Extrm	760	51.40	1,373	95.82	23	2,156	74.05
Trauma Head/Neck	525	35.51	419	29.24	11	955	32.80
Trauma Torso	264	17.86	427	29.80	5	696	23.91
Other Trauma	515	34.83	734	51.22	4	1,253	43.04
Unknown	321	21.71	338	23.59	55	714	24.52
Total	28,225	1,908.97	32,917	2,297.20	668	61,810	2,122.98

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

*Rates not calculated on fewer than five incidents

**Figure 4.7: Leading Chief Complaints by Gender:
Non-Emergency Patients***



*15 leading chief complaints

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 1999/00.

Section 5

Detail Tables

Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Age Group									
	0-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24	
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	50	21.32	64	28.64	94	45.95	361	186.99	578	258.33
Airway Obstr	200	85.27	28	12.53	18	8.80	8	4.14	6	2.68
Aller Reac	52	22.17	28	12.53	26	12.71	43	22.27	59	26.37
Alt Neuro (Diab)	9	3.84	16	7.16	17	8.31	33	17.09	73	32.63
Alt Neuro (Med)	62	26.43	25	11.19	58	28.35	129	66.82	152	67.94
Asthma	60	25.58	56	25.06	61	29.82	51	26.42	55	24.58
Birth	47	20.04	0	-	0	-	19	9.84	35	15.64
Burn	71	30.27	30	13.43	18	8.80	34	17.61	42	18.77
Chest Pain Card	5	2.13	4	*	5	2.44	39	20.20	73	32.63
Chest Pain Otr	7	2.98	18	8.06	50	24.44	132	68.37	198	88.50
CHF	3	*	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
COPD	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
CPR Med	28	11.94	2	*	4	*	6	3.11	8	3.58
CPR Med Bystnd	17	7.25	1	*	4	*	2	*	2	*
CVA	2	*	1	*	2	0.98	0	-	1	*
Drown/Diving	57	24.30	16	7.16	17	8.31	14	7.25	6	2.68
Environ	21	8.95	21	9.40	19	9.29	27	13.99	32	14.30
ETOH/Sub Abuse	5	2.13	0	-	66	32.26	358	185.44	345	154.20
Extrm Pain Med	5	2.13	1	*	4	*	19	9.84	25	11.17
Fever Flu Rash	355	151.35	59	26.40	34	16.62	74	38.33	74	33.07
GI/GU	29	12.36	6	2.69	8	3.91	39	20.20	53	23.69
Haz Mat Tox	16	6.82	7	3.13	5	2.44	16	8.29	10	4.47
Headache Med	4	*	16	7.16	21	10.27	61	31.60	78	34.86
Hemodialysis	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Neck Back Med	4	*	2	*	7	3.42	39	20.20	62	27.71
OB/GYN	24	10.23	1	*	9	4.40	187	96.86	332	148.39
OD Poison	115	49.03	16	7.16	81	39.60	353	182.85	348	155.54
Otr Med	953	406.30	288	128.89	303	148.12	704	364.66	839	374.99
Palpitations	0	-	0	-	4	*	11	5.70	9	4.02
Psychiatric	2	*	40	17.90	163	79.68	338	175.08	306	136.77
Seizure	1058	451.06	180	80.55	205	100.21	326	168.86	347	155.09
Resp Distress	586	249.83	135	60.42	134	65.50	182	94.27	199	88.94
Syncope	12	5.12	15	6.71	45	22.00	126	65.27	126	56.32
CPR Trauma	0	-	1	*	3	*	10	5.18	10	4.47
CPR Trauma Bystnd	2	*	1	*	1	*	6	3.11	3	*
Trauma Extrm	242	103.17	509	227.79	839	410.13	1160	600.87	1154	515.77
Trauma Head/Neck	1003	427.61	770	344.59	857	418.93	1896	982.10	1930	862.60
Trauma Torso	100	42.63	204	91.30	276	134.92	690	357.41	853	381.24
Other Trauma	349	148.79	200	89.51	184	89.94	517	267.80	517	231.07
Unknown	45	19.19	19	8.50	20	9.78	93	48.17	68	30.39
Total	5600	2,387.48	2780	1,244.12	3662	1,790.10	8103	4,197.25	9008	4,026.08

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Chief Complaint	Age Group									
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74	
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	991	224.58	1226	259.80	958	267.01	566	251.38	722	411.69
Airway Obstr	12	2.72	27	5.72	30	8.36	26	11.55	24	13.68
Aller Reac	127	28.78	171	36.24	128	35.68	59	26.20	47	26.80
Alt Neuro (Diab)	300	67.98	424	89.85	463	129.04	417	185.21	547	311.90
Alt Neuro (Med)	365	82.71	640	135.62	693	193.15	646	286.92	1128	643.19
Asthma	147	33.31	170	36.02	133	37.07	77	34.20	87	49.61
Birth	42	9.52	12	2.54	0	-	0	-	0	-
Burn	97	21.98	80	16.95	46	12.82	28	12.44	13	7.41
Chest Pain Card	272	61.64	885	187.54	1458	406.37	1439	639.12	1838	1,048.04
Chest Pain Otr	380	86.11	547	115.92	439	122.36	249	110.59	256	145.97
CHF	2	*	11	2.33	27	7.53	89	39.53	208	118.60
COPD	1	*	11	2.33	41	11.43	65	28.87	178	101.50
CPR Med	25	5.67	94	19.92	151	42.09	210	93.27	337	192.16
CPR Med Bystnd	22	4.99	39	8.26	62	17.28	87	38.64	132	75.27
CVA	11	2.49	39	8.26	139	38.74	231	102.60	453	258.30
Drown/Diving	12	2.72	10	2.12	3	*	3	*	2	*
Environ	46	10.42	59	12.50	31	8.64	14	6.22	8	4.56
ETOH/Sub Abuse	495	112.17	751	159.15	705	196.49	320	142.13	96	54.74
Extrm Pain Med	52	11.78	123	26.07	127	35.40	114	50.63	146	83.25
Fever Flu Rash	171	38.75	208	44.08	174	48.50	192	85.28	276	157.38
GI/GU	101	22.89	188	39.84	240	66.89	208	92.38	311	177.33
Haz Mat Tox	25	5.67	24	5.09	17	4.74	1	*	4	*
Headache Med	175	39.66	232	49.16	184	51.28	90	39.97	90	51.32
Hemodialysis	2	*	3	*	23	6.41	38	16.88	38	21.67
Neck Back Med	176	39.88	213	45.14	206	57.42	130	57.74	138	78.69
OB/GYN	432	97.90	194	41.11	27	7.53	4	*	4	*
OD Poison	647	146.62	806	170.80	492	137.13	106	47.08	62	35.35
Otr Med	2031	460.26	3001	635.95	3186	887.98	2934	1,303.11	4216	2,403.99
Palpitations	35	7.93	41	8.69	29	8.08	32	14.21	28	15.97
Psychiatric	701	158.86	1028	217.85	711	198.17	301	133.69	201	114.61
Seizure	826	187.18	1253	265.53	856	238.58	340	151.01	277	157.95
Resp Distress	514	116.48	691	146.43	865	241.09	1045	464.13	1811	1,032.64
Syncope	203	46.00	234	49.59	240	66.89	225	99.93	451	257.16
CPR Trauma	14	3.17	21	4.45	25	6.97	9	4.00	5	2.85
CPR Trauma Bystnd	3	*	11	2.33	3	*	3	*	4	*
Trauma Extrm	1789	405.42	1772	375.51	1248	347.84	859	381.52	1081	616.39
Trauma Head/Neck	2777	629.31	2526	535.29	1825	508.65	991	440.15	908	517.75
Trauma Torso	1205	273.07	1143	242.21	906	252.52	543	241.17	476	271.42
Other Trauma	678	153.65	675	143.04	483	134.62	290	128.80	315	179.62
Unknown	116	26.29	138	29.24	95	26.48	92	40.86	115	65.57
Total	16020	3,630.39	19721	4,179.11	17469	4,868.86	13073	5,806.27	17033	9,712.33

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Chief Complaint	Age Group					Total	
	75-84		85+		Unknown		
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	951	825.86	569	1,279.97	19	7149	245.55
Airway Obstr	33	28.66	31	69.74	3	446	15.32
Aller Reac	43	37.34	14	31.49	1	798	27.41
Alt Neuro (Diab)	600	521.05	190	427.41	9	3098	106.41
Alt Neuro (Med)	2039	1,770.70	1380	3,104.33	31	7348	252.38
Asthma	65	56.45	20	44.99	7	989	33.97
Birth	1	*	0	-	6	162	5.56
Burn	6	5.21	1	*	4	470	16.14
Chest Pain Card	2221	1,928.76	1011	2,274.26	25	9275	318.57
Chest Pain Otr	276	239.68	139	312.68	9	2700	92.74
CHF	340	295.26	255	573.63	4	939	32.25
COPD	134	116.37	53	119.22	4	487	16.73
CPR Med	423	367.34	302	679.35	19	1609	55.26
CPR Med Bystnd	153	132.87	94	211.45		615	21.12
CVA	834	724.26	460	1,034.78	10	2183	74.98
Drown/Diving	3	*	0	-	3	146	5.01
Environ	9	7.82	4	*	2	293	10.06
ETOH/Sub Abuse	40	34.74	6	13.50	37	3224	110.73
Extrm Pain Med	233	202.34	152	341.93	8	1009	34.66
Fever Flu Rash	471	409.02	309	695.10	12	2409	82.74
GI/GU	498	432.47	324	728.84	7	2012	69.11
Haz Mat Tox	0	-	0	-	3	128	4.40
Headache Med	103	89.45	47	105.73	5	1106	37.99
Hemodialysis	41	35.61	4	*	5	154	5.29
Neck Back Med	207	179.76	126	283.44	4	1314	45.13
OB/GYN	12	10.42	10	22.50	9	1245	42.76
OD Poison	55	47.76	22	49.49	13	3116	107.03
Otr Med	6826	5,927.82	4538	10,208.31	270	30089	1,033.46
Palpitations	45	39.08	9	20.25	2	245	8.41
Psychiatric	237	205.81	110	247.45	32	4170	143.23
Seizure	250	217.10	113	254.20	24	6055	207.97
Resp Distress	2587	2,246.60	1594	3,585.73	33	10376	356.38
Syncope	655	568.81	375	843.57	6	2713	93.18
CPR Trauma	10	8.68	1	*	5	114	3.92
CPR Trauma Bystnd	4	*	0	-	2	43	1.48
Trauma Extrm	1963	1,704.70	1502	3,378.77	79	14197	487.62
Trauma Head/Neck	1255	1,089.86	930	2,092.05	100	17768	610.28
Trauma Torso	738	640.89	533	1,198.99	38	7705	264.64
Other Trauma	598	519.31	423	951.55	103	5332	183.14
Unknown	164	142.42	116	260.94	763	1844	63.34
Total	25123	21,817.25	15767	35,468.12	1716	155075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.2: Chief Complaint by Gender: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	2762	186.81	4351	303.65	36	7149	245.55
Airway Obstr	221	14.95	217	15.14	8	446	15.32
Aller Reac	316	21.37	479	33.43	3	798	27.41
Alt Neuro (Diab)	1589	107.47	1497	104.47	12	3098	106.41
Alt Neuro (Med)	3389	229.21	3933	274.47	26	7348	252.38
Asthma	375	25.36	610	42.57	4	989	33.97
Birth	28	1.89	134	9.35		162	5.56
Burn	281	19.01	185	12.91	4	470	16.14
Chest Pain Card	4684	316.80	4554	317.81	37	9275	318.57
Chest Pain Otr	1290	87.25	1398	97.56	12	2700	92.74
CHF	376	25.43	557	38.87	6	939	32.25
COPD	204	13.80	277	19.33	6	487	16.73
CPR Med	966	65.33	628	43.83	15	1609	55.26
CPR Med Bystnd	394	26.65	219	15.28	2	615	21.12
CVA	942	63.71	1230	85.84	11	2183	74.98
Drown/Diving	86	5.82	59	4.12	1	146	5.01
Environ	173	11.70	116	8.10	4	293	10.06
ETOH/Sub Abuse	2192	148.25	1011	70.56	21	3224	110.73
Extrm Pain Med	437	29.56	568	39.64	4	1009	34.66
Fever Flu Rash	1129	76.36	1266	88.35	14	2409	82.74
GI/GU	997	67.43	1009	70.42	6	2012	69.11
Haz Mat Tox	66	4.46	60	4.19	2	128	4.40
Headache Med	357	24.15	740	51.64	9	1106	37.99
Hemodialysis	71	4.80	83	5.79		154	5.29
Neck Back Med	560	37.88	753	52.55	1	1314	45.13
OB/GYN	18	1.22	1221	85.21	6	1245	42.76
OD Poison	1541	104.22	1559	108.80	16	3116	107.03
Otr Med	13575	918.13	16241	1,133.42	273	30089	1,033.46
Palpitations	90	6.09	152	10.61	3	245	8.41
Psychiatric	2104	142.30	2032	141.81	34	4170	143.23
Seizure	3554	240.37	2469	172.31	32	6055	207.97
Resp Distress	4663	315.38	5664	395.28	49	10376	356.38
Syncope	1119	75.68	1586	110.68	8	2713	93.18
CPR Trauma	97	6.56	17	1.19	0	114	3.92
CPR Trauma Bystnd	35	2.37	7	0.49	1	43	1.48
Trauma Extrm	6874	464.92	7236	504.98	87	14197	487.62
Trauma Head/Neck	9909	670.18	7766	541.97	93	17768	610.28
Trauma Torso	3867	261.54	3797	264.98	41	7705	264.64
Other Trauma	2692	182.07	2567	179.14	73	5332	183.14
Unknown	574	38.82	539	37.62	731	1844	63.34
Total	74597	5,045.29	78787	5,498.35	1691	155075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.3: Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity, Incidence and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Race/Ethnicity								Total	
	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other			
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
AB Pain	3,814	219.36	801	461.54	1,264	174.98	533	192.50	7,149	245.55
Airway Obstr	211	12.14	31	17.86	112	15.50	20	7.22	446	15.32
Aller Reac	446	25.65	77	44.37	105	14.54	72	26.00	798	27.41
Alt Neuro (Diab)	1,733	99.67	360	207.43	418	57.86	222	80.18	3,098	106.41
Alt Neuro (Med)	4,602	264.69	476	274.27	770	106.59	474	171.20	7,348	252.38
Asthma	424	24.39	244	140.59	149	20.63	72	26.00	989	33.97
Birth	31	1.78	34	19.59	64	8.86	13	4.70	162	5.56
Burn	223	12.83	37	21.32	107	14.81	33	11.92	470	16.14
Chest Pain Card	5,881	338.25	614	353.79	869	120.30	579	209.12	9,275	318.57
Chest Pain Otr	1,424	81.90	380	218.96	448	62.02	207	74.76	2,700	92.74
CHF	656	37.73	76	43.79	84	11.63	55	19.86	939	32.25
COPD	385	22.14	33	19.01	18	2.49	14	5.06	487	16.73
CPR Med	1,010	58.09	100	57.62	144	19.93	94	33.95	1,609	55.26
CPR Med Bystnd	388	22.32	40	23.05	63	8.72	42	15.17	615	21.12
CVA	1,503	86.45	141	81.24	199	27.55	123	44.42	2,183	74.98
Drown/Diving	63	3.62	7	4.03	32	4.43	13	4.70	146	5.01
Environ	151	8.68	17	9.80	51	7.06	21	7.58	293	10.06
ETOH/Sub Abuse	1,971	113.36	243	140.02	590	81.67	123	44.42	3,224	110.73
Extrm Pain Med	674	38.77	86	49.55	97	13.43	40	14.45	1,009	34.66
Fever Flu Rash	1,295	74.48	228	131.37	404	55.93	236	85.24	2,409	82.74
GI/GU	1,225	70.46	147	84.70	209	28.93	146	52.73	2,012	69.11
Haz Mat Tox	46	2.65	19	10.95	33	4.57	4	*	128	4.40
Headache Med	567	32.61	150	86.43	196	27.13	89	32.14	1,106	37.99
Hemodialysis	57	3.28	44	25.35	37	5.12	13	4.70	154	5.29
Neck Back Med	845	48.60	95	54.74	150	20.76	57	20.59	1,314	45.13
OB/GYN	377	21.68	287	165.37	390	53.99	84	30.34	1,245	42.76
OD Poison	1,710	98.35	319	183.81	519	71.85	173	62.48	3,116	107.03
Otr Med	19,140	1,100.85	2,731	1,573.60	3,753	519.53	1,970	711.51	30,089	1,033.46
Palpitations	157	9.03	26	14.98	28	3.88	27	9.75	245	8.41
Psychiatric	2,651	152.47	429	247.19	574	79.46	248	89.57	4,170	143.23
Seizure	3,032	174.39	718	413.71	1,246	172.49	328	118.46	6,055	207.97
Resp Distress	6,537	375.98	868	500.14	1,117	154.63	646	233.32	10,376	356.38
Syncope	1,710	98.35	144	82.97	241	33.36	190	68.62	2713	93.18
CPR Trauma	58	3.34	5	2.88	20	2.77	7	2.53	114	3.92
CPR Trauma Bystnd	22	1.27	5	2.88	7	0.97	4	*	43	1.48
Trauma Extrm	8,553	491.93	1,072	617.69	2,243	310.50	756	273.05	14,197	487.62
Trauma Head/Neck	9,355	538.06	1,366	787.09	3,524	487.83	1415	511.06	17,768	610.28
Trauma Torso	4,008	230.52	503	289.83	1,553	214.98	640	231.15	7,705	264.64
Other Trauma	2,914	167.60	402	231.63	883	122.24	382	137.97	5,332	183.14
Unknown	629	36.18	77	44.37	159	22.01	65	23.48	1,844	63.34
Total	90,478	5,203.88	13,432	7,739.51	22,870	3,165.94	10,230	3,694.79	155,075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Total includes 18,065 cases with an unknown race/ethnicity

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.4: Chief Complaint by Incident Location: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Incident Location									
	Home		Street Highway		Public Bldg		Industry		School	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
AB Pain	4,525	63.30%	478	6.69%	486	6.80%	90	1.26%	50	0.70%
Airway Obstr	314	70.40%	9	2.02%	38	8.52%	5	1.12%	4	0.90%
Aller Reac	432	54.14%	48	6.02%	83	10.40%	14	1.75%	24	3.01%
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2,257	72.85%	195	6.29%	195	6.29%	41	1.32%	16	0.52%
Alt Neuro (Med)	4,575	62.26%	436	5.93%	566	7.70%	76	1.03%	56	0.76%
Asthma	639	64.61%	61	6.17%	88	8.90%	10	1.01%	20	2.02%
Birth	112	69.14%	15	9.26%	6	3.70%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Burn	243	51.70%	49	10.43%	47	10.00%	24	5.11%	10	2.13%
Chest Pain Card	5,660	61.02%	332	3.58%	659	7.11%	151	1.63%	60	0.65%
Chest Pain Otr	1,410	52.22%	346	12.81%	238	8.81%	60	2.22%	36	1.33%
CHF	665	70.82%	14	1.49%	14	1.49%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
COPD	327	67.15%	7	1.44%	10	2.05%	0	0.00%	1	0.21%
CPR Med	1,237	76.88%	61	3.79%	42	2.61%	9	0.56%	3	0.19%
CPR Med Bystnd	353	57.40%	33	5.37%	46	7.48%	8	1.30%	5	0.81%
CVA	1,421	65.09%	38	1.74%	74	3.39%	17	0.78%	7	0.32%
Drown/Diving	51	34.93%	7	4.79%	13	8.90%	0	0.00%	1	0.68%
Environ	85	29.01%	58	19.80%	41	13.99%	8	2.73%	7	2.39%
ETOH/Sub Abuse	1,009	31.30%	1,254	38.90%	336	10.42%	21	0.65%	27	0.84%
Extrm Pain Med	598	59.27%	91	9.02%	56	5.55%	4	0.40%	1	0.10%
Fever Flu Rash	1,706	70.82%	47	1.95%	84	3.49%	11	0.46%	14	0.58%
GI/GU	1,320	65.61%	85	4.22%	74	3.68%	15	0.75%	6	0.30%
Haz Mat Tox	39	30.47%	10	7.81%	26	20.31%	21	16.41%	7	5.47%
Headache Med	709	64.10%	52	4.70%	94	8.50%	21	1.90%	19	1.72%
Hemodialysis	32	20.78%	1	0.65%	1	0.65%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Neck Back Med	883	67.20%	98	7.46%	82	6.24%	16	1.22%	5	0.38%
OB/GYN	760	61.04%	93	7.47%	104	8.35%	18	1.45%	16	1.29%
OD Poison	2,070	66.43%	343	11.01%	182	5.84%	14	0.45%	48	1.54%
Otr Med	15,674	52.09%	1,772	5.89%	1,609	5.35%	296	0.98%	180	0.60%
Palpitations	153	62.45%	12	4.90%	21	8.57%	10	4.08%	4	1.63%
Psychiatric	1,554	37.27%	408	9.78%	229	5.49%	23	0.55%	31	0.74%
Seizure	3,117	51.48%	716	11.82%	753	12.44%	137	2.26%	143	2.36%
Resp Distress	6,964	67.12%	295	2.84%	377	3.63%	69	0.66%	71	0.68%
Syncope	1,305	48.10%	115	4.24%	620	22.85%	72	2.65%	46	1.70%
CPR Trauma	31	27.19%	69	60.53%	3	2.63%	1	0.88%	0	0.00%
CPR Trauma Bystnd	15	34.88%	11	25.58%	3	6.98%	3	6.98%	0	0.00%
Trauma Extrm	4,998	35.20%	4,580	32.26%	1,052	7.41%	281	1.98%	258	1.82%
Trauma Head/Neck	3,703	20.84%	9,270	52.17%	1,197	6.74%	189	1.06%	274	1.54%
Trauma Torso	1,841	23.89%	4,241	55.04%	296	3.84%	114	1.48%	94	1.22%
Other Trauma	1,433	26.88%	2,411	45.22%	286	5.36%	52	0.98%	38	0.71%
Unknown	593	32.16%	586	31.78%	83	4.50%	14	0.76%	5	0.27%
Total	74,813	48.24%	28,747	18.54%	10,214	6.59%	1,915	1.23%	1,587	1.02%

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.4: Chief Complaint by Incident Location: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Chief Complaint	Incident Location								Total
	Rec/Public Area		Med Facility		Other		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	87	1.22%	847	11.85%	441	6.17%	145	2.03%	7,149
Airway Obstr	3	0.67%	31	6.95%	29	6.50%	13	2.91%	446
Aller Reac	21	2.63%	91	11.40%	68	8.52%	17	2.13%	798
Alt Neuro (Diab)	20	0.65%	174	5.62%	137	4.42%	63	2.03%	3,098
Alt Neuro (Med)	90	1.22%	968	13.17%	459	6.25%	122	1.66%	7,348
Asthma	17	1.72%	81	8.19%	50	5.06%	23	2.33%	989
Birth	2	1.23%	13	8.02%	8	4.94%	6	3.70%	162
Burn	25	5.32%	30	6.38%	34	7.23%	8	1.70%	470
Chest Pain Card	102	1.10%	1,495	16.12%	602	6.49%	214	2.31%	9,275
Chest Pain Otr	36	1.33%	302	11.19%	225	8.33%	47	1.74%	2,700
CHF	5	0.53%	198	21.09%	27	2.88%	16	1.70%	939
COPD	2	0.41%	121	24.85%	11	2.26%	8	1.64%	487
CPR Med	13	0.81%	127	7.89%	93	5.78%	24	1.49%	1,609
CPR Med Bystnd	26	4.23%	103	16.75%	34	5.53%	7	1.14%	615
CVA	15	0.69%	469	21.48%	103	4.72%	39	1.79%	2,183
Drown/Diving	38	26.03%	3	2.05%	31	21.23%	2	1.37%	146
Environ	18	6.14%	8	2.73%	56	19.11%	12	4.10%	293
ETOH/Sub Abuse	110	3.41%	74	2.30%	317	9.83%	76	2.36%	3,224
Extrm Pain Med	12	1.19%	180	17.84%	47	4.66%	20	1.98%	1,009
Fever Flu Rash	14	0.58%	400	16.60%	84	3.49%	49	2.03%	2,409
GI/GU	13	0.65%	371	18.44%	98	4.87%	30	1.49%	2,012
Haz Mat Tox	1	0.78%	3	2.34%	14	10.94%	7	5.47%	128
Headache Med	13	1.18%	123	11.12%	60	5.42%	15	1.36%	1,106
Hemodialysis		0.00%	112	72.73%	6	3.90%	2	1.30%	154
Neck Back Med	23	1.75%	116	8.83%	61	4.64%	30	2.28%	1,314
OB/GYN	23	1.85%	98	7.87%	108	8.67%	25	2.01%	1,245
OD Poison	46	1.48%	143	4.59%	203	6.51%	67	2.15%	3,116
Otr Med	306	1.02%	7,516	24.98%	1,804	6.00%	932	3.10%	30,089
Palpitations	5	2.04%	29	11.84%	6	2.45%	5	2.04%	245
Psychiatric	46	1.10%	1,452	34.82%	316	7.58%	111	2.66%	4,170
Seizure	129	2.13%	350	5.78%	579	9.56%	131	2.16%	6,055
Resp Distress	56	0.54%	1,862	17.95%	469	4.52%	213	2.05%	10,376
Syncope	62	2.29%	161	5.93%	272	10.03%	60	2.21%	2,713
CPR Trauma	3	2.63%	0	0.00%	5	4.39%	2	1.75%	114
CPR Trauma Bystnd	2	4.65%	1	2.33%	8	18.60%	0	0.00%	43
Trauma Extrm	770	5.42%	889	6.26%	985	6.94%	384	2.70%	14,197
Trauma Head/Neck	729	4.10%	763	4.29%	1,175	6.61%	468	2.63%	17,768
Trauma Torso	180	2.34%	372	4.83%	395	5.13%	172	2.23%	7,705
Other Trauma	112	2.10%	427	8.01%	376	7.05%	197	3.69%	5,332
Unknown	24	1.30%	175	9.49%	92	4.99%	272	14.75%	1,844
Total	3,199	2.06%	20,678	13.33%	9,888	6.38%	4,034	2.60%	155,075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.5: Chief Complaint by Patient Status: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Patient Status/Acuity								Total
	Mild		Moderate		Acute		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	6,160	86.17%	803	11.23%	73	1.02%	113	1.58%	7,149
Airway Obstr	379	84.98%	35	7.85%	22	4.93%	10	2.24%	446
Aller Reac	568	71.18%	200	25.06%	20	2.51%	10	1.25%	798
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2,048	66.11%	911	29.41%	92	2.97%	47	1.52%	3,098
Alt Neuro (Med)	4,906	66.77%	1,942	26.43%	379	5.16%	121	1.65%	7,348
Asthma	523	52.88%	387	39.13%	61	6.17%	18	1.82%	989
Birth	125	77.16%	27	16.67%	5	3.09%	5	3.09%	162
Burn	323	68.72%	104	22.13%	35	7.45%	8	1.70%	470
Chest Pain Card	5,521	59.53%	3,260	35.15%	358	3.86%	136	1.47%	9,275
Chest Pain Otr	2,437	90.26%	198	7.33%	10	0.37%	55	2.04%	2,700
CHF	249	26.52%	429	45.69%	245	26.09%	16	1.70%	939
COPD	272	55.85%	170	34.91%	31	6.37%	14	2.87%	487
CPR Med	26	1.62%	12	0.75%	1,513	94.03%	58	3.60%	1,609
CPR Med Bystnd	7	1.14%	3	0.49%	595	96.75%	10	1.63%	615
CVA	1,277	58.50%	715	32.75%	158	7.24%	33	1.51%	2,183
Drown/Diving	67	45.89%	39	26.71%	36	24.66%	4	2.74%	146
Environ	221	75.43%	49	16.72%	12	4.10%	11	3.75%	293
ETOH/Sub Abuse	2,882	89.39%	256	7.94%	24	0.74%	62	1.92%	3,224
Extrm Pain Med	963	95.44%	27	2.68%	1	0.10%	18	1.78%	1,009
Fever Flu Rash	2,223	92.28%	137	5.69%	4	0.17%	45	1.87%	2,409
GI/GU	1,543	76.69%	366	18.19%	52	2.58%	51	2.53%	2,012
Haz Mat Tox	112	87.50%	15	11.72%	1	0.78%	0	0.00%	128
Headache Med	1,027	92.86%	57	5.15%	6	0.54%	16	1.45%	1,106
Hemodialysis	140	90.91%	10	6.49%	1	0.65%	3	1.95%	154
Neck Back Med	1,249	95.05%	44	3.35%	0	0.00%	21	1.60%	1,314
OB/GYN	952	76.47%	239	19.20%	19	1.53%	35	2.81%	1,245
OD Poison	2,175	69.80%	706	22.66%	178	5.71%	57	1.83%	3,116
Otr Med	26,256	87.26%	2,217	7.37%	492	1.64%	1,124	3.74%	30,089
Palpitations	176	71.84%	54	22.04%	8	3.27%	7	2.86%	245
Psychiatric	3,951	94.75%	69	1.65%	1	0.02%	149	3.57%	4,170
Seizure	4,881	80.61%	925	15.28%	154	2.54%	95	1.57%	6,055
Resp Distress	6,029	58.11%	3,290	31.71%	854	8.23%	203	1.96%	10,376
Syncope	2,136	78.73%	490	18.06%	42	1.55%	45	1.66%	2,713
CPR Trauma	3	2.63%	0	0.00%	109	95.61%	2	1.75%	114
CPR Trauma Bystnd	1	2.33%	1	2.33%	39	90.70%	2	4.65%	43
Trauma Extrm	12,980	91.43%	864	6.09%	116	0.82%	237	1.67%	14,197
Trauma Head/Neck	14,500	81.61%	2,171	12.22%	788	4.43%	309	1.74%	17,768
Trauma Torso	5,630	73.07%	1,504	19.52%	448	5.81%	123	1.60%	7,705
Other Trauma	4,653	87.27%	349	6.55%	102	1.91%	228	4.28%	5,332
Unknown	615	33.35%	56	3.04%	27	1.46%	1,146	62.15%	1,844
Total	120,186	77.50%	23,131	14.92%	7,111	4.59%	4,647	3.00%	155,075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.6: Chief Complaint by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients

Chief Complaint	Incident Outcome												Total
	Trans by Unit		AMA		Release		DOS		Aid Unnec		Trans Private		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	6795	95.05%	316	4.42%	30	0.42%	0	0.00%	3	0.04%	5	0.07%	7149
Airway Obstr	283	63.45%	136	30.49%	24	5.38%	0	0.00%	3	0.67%	0	0.00%	446
Aller Reac	720	90.23%	67	8.40%	11	1.38%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	798
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2030	65.53%	1038	33.51%	25	0.81%	1	0.03%	3	0.10%	1	0.03%	3098
Alt Neuro (Med)	7047	95.90%	275	3.74%	14	0.19%	2	0.03%	6	0.08%	4	0.05%	7348
Asthma	915	92.52%	69	6.98%	5	0.51%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	989
Birth	160	98.77%	2	1.23%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	162
Burn	381	81.06%	68	14.47%	18	3.83%	1	0.21%	1	0.21%	1	0.21%	470
Chest Pain Card	9098	98.09%	165	1.78%	4	0.04%	4	0.04%	2	0.02%	2	0.02%	9275
Chest Pain Otr	2428	89.93%	251	9.30%	18	0.67%	0	0.00%	2	0.07%	1	0.04%	2700
CHF	934	99.47%	3	0.32%	0	0.00%	1	0.11%	1	0.11%	0	0.00%	939
COPD	469	96.30%	17	3.49%	0	0.00%	1	0.21%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	487
CPR Med	734	45.62%	3	0.19%	3	0.19%	868	53.95%	1	0.06%	0	0.00%	1609
CPR Med Bystnd	368	59.84%	1	0.16%	0	0.00%	245	39.84%	1	0.16%	0	0.00%	615
CVA	2175	99.63%	7	0.32%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.05%	0	0.00%	2183
Drown/Diving	120	82.19%	18	12.33%	3	2.05%	5	3.42%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	146
Environ	176	60.07%	92	31.40%	20	6.83%	0	0.00%	5	1.71%	0	0.00%	293
ETOH/Sub Abuse	2936	91.07%	203	6.30%	51	1.58%	3	0.09%	30	0.93%	1	0.03%	3224
Extrm Pain Med	954	94.55%	41	4.06%	13	1.29%	0	0.00%	1	0.10%	0	0.00%	1009
Fever Flu Rash	2116	87.84%	244	10.13%	41	1.70%	1	0.04%	3	0.12%	4	0.17%	2409
GI/GU	1937	96.27%	56	2.78%	16	0.80%	0	0.00%	2	0.10%	1	0.05%	2012
Haz Mat Tox	88	68.75%	33	25.78%	7	5.47%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	128
Headache Med	1007	91.05%	82	7.41%	15	1.36%	0	0.00%	1	0.09%	1	0.09%	1106
Hemodialysis	151	98.05%	3	1.95%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	154
Neck Back Med	1245	94.75%	56	4.26%	11	0.84%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.15%	1314
OB/GYN	1209	97.11%	23	1.85%	9	0.72%	1	0.08%	2	0.16%	1	0.08%	1245
OD Poison	2874	92.23%	215	6.90%	19	0.61%	4	0.13%	3	0.10%	1	0.03%	3116
Otr Med	26286	87.36%	2819	9.37%	375	1.25%	438	1.46%	151	0.50%	20	0.07%	30089
Palpitations	218	88.98%	26	10.61%	1	0.41%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	245
Psychiatric	3851	92.35%	194	4.65%	85	2.04%	0	0.00%	36	0.86%	4	0.10%	4170
Seizure	5571	92.01%	465	7.68%	17	0.28%	0	0.00%	2	0.03%	0	0.00%	6055
Resp Distress	9752	93.99%	551	5.31%	49	0.47%	8	0.08%	11	0.11%	5	0.05%	10376
Syncope	2379	87.69%	312	11.50%	19	0.70%	0	0.00%	2	0.07%	1	0.04%	2713
CPR Trauma	45	39.47%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	68	59.65%	1	0.88%	0	0.00%	114
CPR Trauma Bystnd	23	53.49%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	20	46.51%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	43
Trauma Extrm	11680	82.27%	2012	14.17%	462	3.25%	0	0.00%	19	0.13%	24	0.17%	14197
Trauma Head/Neck	14699	82.73%	2568	14.45%	372	2.09%	87	0.49%	11	0.06%	31	0.17%	17768
Trauma Torso	6868	89.14%	734	9.53%	69	0.90%	21	0.27%	4	0.05%	9	0.12%	7705
Other Trauma	3379	63.37%	1490	27.94%	358	6.71%	31	0.58%	63	1.18%	11	0.21%	5332
Unknown	641	34.76%	227	12.31%	95	5.15%	112	6.07%	765	41.49%	4	0.22%	1844
Total	134742	86.89%	14882	9.60%	2259	1.46%	1922	1.24%	1136	0.73%	134	0.09%	155075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Age Group									
	0-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24	
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
MVC	358	152.63	428	191.54	449	219.48	1,994	1,032.87	2,021	903.28
Motorcycle	2	*	8	3.58	25	12.22	78	40.40	148	66.15
ATV	0	-	5	2.24	12	5.87	18	9.32	22	9.83
Pedalcycle	23	9.81	151	67.58	252	123.19	141	73.04	86	38.44
Pedestrian	65	27.71	123	55.05	120	58.66	87	45.06	78	34.86
MVC Oth	5	2.13	8	3.58	5	2.44	25	12.95	28	12.51
Other Trans	21	8.95	43	19.24	142	69.41	105	54.39	71	31.73
Fire-Burn	55	23.45	20	8.95	15	7.33	39	20.20	39	17.43
Firearm	2	*	6	2.69	16	7.82	75	38.85	61	27.26
Stab	52	22.17	61	27.30	64	31.29	216	111.89	289	129.17
Blunt	55	23.45	59	26.40	131	64.04	381	197.35	429	191.74
Fall	699	298.01	403	180.35	427	208.73	394	204.09	416	185.93
Assault-Batt	4	*	0	-	3	*	11	5.70	13	5.81
Poison-bite-sting	26	11.08	28	12.53	18	8.80	34	17.61	34	15.20
Suffocation	9	3.84	1	*	0	-	5	2.59	2	*
Drown-Sub	8	3.41	2	*	1	*	3	*	3	*
Other Str-Hit-Kick	27	11.51	27	12.08	67	32.75	74	38.33	29	12.96
Other	115	49.03	70	31.33	84	41.06	207	107.22	232	103.69
Unknown	29	12.36	9	4.03	23	11.24	61	31.60	93	41.57
Total Causes Indicated	1,555	662.95	1,452	649.81	1,854	906.29	3,948	2,045.01	4,094	1,829.79
No Cause Indicated	4,045	1,724.53	1,328	594.31	1,808	883.81	4,155	2,152.24	4,914	2,196.29
Total	5,600	2,387.48	2,780	1,244.12	3,662	1,790.10	8,103	4,197.25	9,008	4,026.08

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Cause of Injury	Age Group									
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74	
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
MVO	2,581	584.90	2,117	448.62	1,526	425.32	792	351.76	560	319.32
Motorcycle	205	46.46	147	31.15	112	31.22	39	17.32	12	6.84
ATV	22	4.99	14	2.97	8	2.23	5	2.22	5	2.85
Pedalcycle	165	37.39	176	37.30	143	39.86	41	18.21	21	11.97
Pedestrian	149	33.77	141	29.88	112	31.22	61	27.09	57	32.50
MVC Oth	28	6.35	21	4.45	28	7.80	12	5.33	15	8.55
Other Trans	93	21.08	87	18.44	58	16.17	22	9.77	26	14.83
Fire-Burn	85	19.26	79	16.74	50	13.94	26	11.55	13	7.41
Firearm	103	23.34	55	11.66	30	8.36	13	5.77	9	5.13
Stab	350	79.32	354	75.02	126	35.12	55	24.43	36	20.53
Blunt	637	144.35	571	121.00	263	73.30	106	47.08	35	19.96
Fall	794	179.93	1,129	239.25	1,182	329.44	978	434.37	1,494	851.89
Assault-Batt	19	4.31	16	3.39	5	1.39	1	*	2	*
Poison-bite-sting	54	12.24	66	13.99	46	12.82	15	6.66	11	6.27
Suffocation	6	1.36	3	*	3	*	0	-	1	*
Drown-Sub	3	0.68	3	*	0	-	1	*	0	-
Other Str-Hit-Kick	69	15.64	63	13.35	29	8.08	17	7.55	10	5.70
Other	296	67.08	303	64.21	214	59.64	115	51.08	147	83.82
Unknown	111	25.15	116	24.58	103	28.71	50	22.21	67	38.20
Total Causes Indicated	5,770	1,307.57	5,461	1,157.25	4,038	1,125.45	2,349	1,043.29	2,521	1,437.49
No Cause Indicated	10,250	2,322.81	14,260	3,021.86	13,431	3,743.42	10,724	4,762.98	14,512	8,274.84
Total	16,020	3,630.39	19,721	4,179.11	17,469	4,868.86	13,073	5,806.27	17,033	9,712.33

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Cause of Injury	Age Group					Total	
	75-84		85+		Unknown		
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
MVO	443	384.71	119	267.69	85	13,473	462.76
Motorcycle	3	*	0	-	9	788	27.07
ATV	5	4.34	4	*	1	121	4.16
Pedalcycle	16	13.89	5	11.25	3	1,223	42.01
Pedestrian	35	30.39	12	26.99	19	1,059	36.37
MVC Oth	4	*	3	*	3	185	6.35
Other Trans	20	17.37	8	18.00	4	700	24.04
Fire-Burn	7	6.08	3	*	5	436	14.98
Firearm	9	7.82	4	*	9	392	13.46
Stab	31	26.92	14	31.49	6	1,654	56.81
Blunt	39	33.87	17	38.24	11	2,734	93.90
Fall	2,967	2,576.59	2,440	5,488.82	56	13,379	459.53
Assault-Batt	1	*	3	*	1	79	2.71
Poison-bite-sting	11	9.55	1	*	4	348	11.95
Suffocation	3	*	0	-	1	34	1.17
Drown-Sub	2	*	0	-	1	27	0.93
Other Str-Hit-Kick	4	*	3	*	0	419	14.39
Other	186	161.53	131	294.69	21	2,121	72.85
Unknown	116	100.74	81	182.21	6	865	29.71
Total Causes Indicated	3,902	3,388.56	2,848	6,406.62	245	40,037	1,375.15
No Cause Indicated	21,221	18,428.69	12,919	29,061.50	1,471	115,038	3,951.20
Total	25,123	21,817.25	15,767	35,468.12	1,716	155,075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

Table 5.8: Cause of Injury by Gender: Emergency Patients

Cause of Injury	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Incidence	Rate
MVO	6,186	418.38	7,207	502.96	80	13,473	462.76
Motorcycle	695	47.01	87	6.07	6	788	27.07
ATV	79	5.34	41	2.86	1	121	4.16
Pedalcycle	963	65.13	256	17.87	4	1,223	42.01
Pedestrian	598	40.45	449	31.33	12	1,059	36.37
MVC Oth	103	6.97	81	5.65	1	185	6.35
Other Trans	429	29.01	267	18.63	4	700	24.04
Fire-Burn	267	18.06	165	11.51	4	436	14.98
Firearm	319	21.58	71	4.95	2	392	13.46
Stab	1,160	78.46	489	34.13	5	1,654	56.81
Blunt	1,889	127.76	828	57.78	17	2,734	93.90
Fall	5,890	398.36	7,437	519.01	52	13,379	459.53
Assault-Batt	19	1.29	59	4.12	1	79	2.71
Poison-bite-sting	202	13.66	145	10.12	1	348	11.95
Suffocation	27	1.83	6	0.42	1	34	1.17
Drown-Sub	20	1.35	7	0.49	0	27	0.93
Other Str-Hit-Kick	308	20.83	111	7.75	0	419	14.39
Other	1,218	82.38	887	61.90	16	2,121	72.85
Unknown	484	32.73	374	26.10	7	865	29.71
Total Causes Indicated	20,856	1,410.57	18,967	1,323.66	214	40,037	1,375.15
No Cause Indicated	53,741	3,634.72	59,820	4,174.69	1,477	115,038	3,951.20
Total	74,597	5,045.29	78,787	5,498.35	1,691	155,075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.9: Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity, Incidence and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients

Cause of Injury	Race/Ethnicity								Total	
	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other			
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
MVO	6,130	352.57	1,016	585.42	2,930	405.61	1,604	579.32	13,473	462.76
Motorcycle	504	28.99	28	16.13	58	8.03	31	11.20	788	27.07
ATV	63	3.62	5	2.88	21	2.91	11	3.97	121	4.16
Pedalcycle	675	38.82	87	50.13	232	32.12	60	21.67	1,223	42.01
Pedestrian	382	21.97	130	74.91	314	43.47	74	26.73	1,059	36.37
MVC Oth	70	4.03	19	10.95	44	6.09	19	6.86	185	6.35
Other Trans	437	25.13	34	19.59	85	11.77	36	13.00	700	24.04
Fire-Burn	216	12.42	39	22.47	84	11.63	29	10.47	436	14.98
Firearm	132	7.59	51	29.39	110	15.23	22	7.95	392	13.46
Stab	751	43.19	176	101.41	430	59.53	98	35.39	1,654	56.81
Blunt	1,331	76.55	288	165.95	659	91.23	159	57.43	2,734	93.90
Fall	9,198	529.03	588	338.81	1,549	214.43	541	195.39	13,379	459.53
Assault-Batt	43	2.47	14	8.07	19	2.63	2	*	79	2.71
Poison-bite-sting	207	11.91	45	25.93	66	9.14	24	8.67	348	11.95
Suffocation	15	0.86	2	*	9	1.25	1	*	34	1.17
Drown-Sub	17	0.98	1	*	4	*	4	*	27	0.93
Other Str-Hit-Kick	215	12.37	12	6.91	79	10.94	16	5.78	419	14.39
Other	1,261	72.53	263	151.54	377	52.19	137	49.48	2,121	72.85
Unknown	516	29.68	82	47.25	132	18.27	59	21.31	865	29.71
Total Causes Indicated	22,163	1,274.71	2,880	1,659.45	7,202	996.99	2,927	1,057.15	40,037	1,375.15
No Cause Indicated	68,315	3,929.17	10,552	6,080.06	15,668	2,168.95	7,303	2,637.64	115,038	3,951.20
Total	90,478	5,203.88	13,432	7,739.51	22,870	3,165.94	10,230	3,694.79	155,075	5,326.35

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Total includes 48,357 cases with an unknown race/ethnicity

* Rates not calculated on fewer than five incidents

Table 5.10: Cause of Injury by Location: Emergency Patients

Cause of Injury	Location									
	Home		Street Highway		Public Building		Industry		School	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MVO	162	1.20%	12,567	93.28%	81	0.60%	13	0.10%	22	0.16%
Motorcycle	27	3.43%	606	76.90%	19	2.41%	1	0.13%	3	0.38%
ATV	24	19.83%	49	40.50%	9	7.44%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pedalcycle	99	8.09%	942	77.02%	27	2.21%	5	0.41%	12	0.98%
Pedestrian	54	5.10%	858	81.02%	35	3.31%	7	0.66%	4	0.38%
MVC Oth	14	7.57%	141	76.22%	5	2.70%	2	1.08%	1	0.54%
Other Trans	98	14.00%	206	29.43%	47	6.71%	8	1.14%	5	0.71%
Fire-Burn	234	53.67%	43	9.86%	45	10.32%	22	5.05%	8	1.83%
Firearm	156	39.80%	122	31.12%	33	8.42%	3	0.77%	5	1.28%
Stab	773	46.74%	299	18.08%	162	9.79%	54	3.26%	19	1.15%
Blunt	836	30.58%	820	29.99%	347	12.69%	70	2.56%	69	2.52%
Fall	6,681	49.94%	1,605	12.00%	1,419	10.61%	276	2.06%	306	2.29%
Assault-Batt	38	48.10%	18	22.78%	6	7.59%	1	1.27%	0	0.00%
Poison-bite-sting	175	50.29%	55	15.80%	20	5.75%	6	1.72%	4	1.15%
Suffocation	18	52.94%		0.00%	2	5.88%	0	0.00%	1	2.94%
Drown-Sub	9	33.33%	1	3.70%		0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Other Str-Hit-Kick	96	22.91%	27	6.44%	62	14.80%	40	9.55%	34	8.11%
Other	754	35.55%	241	11.36%	220	10.37%	73	3.44%	72	3.39%
Unknown	355	41.04%	112	12.95%	80	9.25%	10	1.16%	11	1.27%
Total Causes Indicated	10,603	26.48%	18,712	46.74%	2,619	6.54%	591	1.48%	576	1.44%
No Cause Indicated	64,210	55.82%	10,035	8.72%	7,595	6.60%	1,324	1.15%	1,011	0.88%
Total	74,813	48.24%	28,747	18.54%	10,214	6.59%	1,915	1.23%	1,587	1.02%

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.10: Cause of Injury by Location: Emergency Patients (Continued)

Cause of Injury	Location								Total
	Rec Public Area		Medical Facility		Other		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
MVO	36	0.27%	81	0.60%	175	1.30%	336	2.49%	13,473
Motorcycle	40	5.08%	27	3.43%	43	5.46%	22	2.79%	788
ATV	6	4.96%	15	12.40%	15	12.40%	3	2.48%	121
Pedalcycle	46	3.76%	15	1.23%	38	3.11%	39	3.19%	1,223
Pedestrian	13	1.23%	21	1.98%	39	3.68%	28	2.64%	1,059
MVC Oth	0	0.00%	2	1.08%	15	8.11%	5	2.70%	185
Other Trans	154	22.00%	18	2.57%	148	21.14%	16	2.29%	700
Fire-Burn	26	5.96%	15	3.44%	39	8.94%	4	0.92%	436
Firearm	8	2.04%	19	4.85%	39	9.95%	7	1.79%	392
Stab	68	4.11%	65	3.93%	180	10.88%	34	2.06%	1,654
Blunt	198	7.24%	44	1.61%	278	10.17%	72	2.63%	2,734
Fall	619	4.63%	1,031	7.71%	1,129	8.44%	313	2.34%	13,379
Assault-Batt	3	3.80%	2	2.53%	10	12.66%	1	1.27%	79
Poison-bite-sting	42	12.07%	11	3.16%	21	6.03%	14	4.02%	348
Suffocation	0	0.00%	2	5.88%	9	26.47%	2	5.88%	34
Drown-Sub	12	44.44%		0.00%	4	14.81%	1	3.70%	27
Other Str-Hit-Kick	85	20.29%	13	3.10%	57	13.60%	5	1.19%	419
Other	179	8.44%	351	16.55%	181	8.53%	50	2.36%	2,121
Unknown	18	2.08%	173	20.00%	88	10.17%	18	2.08%	865
Total Causes Indicated	1,553	3.88%	1,905	4.76%	2,508	6.26%	970	2.42%	40,037
No Cause Indicated	1,646	1.43%	18,773	16.32%	7,380	6.42%	3,064	2.66%	115,038
Total	3,199	2.06%	20,678	13.33%	9,888	6.38%	4,034	2.60%	155,075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.11: Cause of Injury by Patient Status: Emergency Patients

Cause of Injury	Patient Status/Acuity								Total
	Mild		Moderate		Acute		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
MVO	11,009	81.71%	1,666	12.37%	525	3.90%	273	2.03%	13,473
Motorcycle	471	59.77%	223	28.30%	79	10.03%	15	1.90%	788
ATV	74	61.16%	28	23.14%	17	14.05%	2	1.65%	121
Pedalcycle	933	76.29%	225	18.40%	55	4.50%	10	0.82%	1,223
Pedestrian	642	60.62%	263	24.83%	136	12.84%	18	1.70%	1,059
MVC Oth	136	73.51%	32	17.30%	15	8.11%	2	1.08%	185
Other Trans	512	73.14%	140	20.00%	37	5.29%	11	1.57%	700
Fire-Burn	297	68.12%	94	21.56%	37	8.49%	8	1.83%	436
Firearm	170	43.37%	81	20.66%	127	32.40%	14	3.57%	392
Stab	1,283	77.57%	243	14.69%	107	6.47%	21	1.27%	1,654
Blunt	2,376	86.91%	261	9.55%	58	2.12%	39	1.43%	2,734
Fall	11,663	87.17%	1,243	9.29%	260	1.94%	213	1.59%	13,379
Assault-Batt	71	89.87%	7	8.86%	0	0.00%	1	1.27%	79
Poison-bite-sting	291	83.62%	36	10.34%	11	3.16%	10	2.87%	348
Suffocation	11	32.35%	5	14.71%	15	44.12%	3	8.82%	34
Drown-Sub	9	33.33%	5	18.52%	12	44.44%	1	3.70%	27
Other Str-Hit-Kick	314	74.94%	78	18.62%	21	5.01%	6	1.43%	419
Other	1,841	86.80%	195	9.19%	58	2.73%	27	1.27%	2,121
Unknown	659	76.18%	148	17.11%	45	5.20%	13	1.50%	865
Total Causes Indicated	32,762	81.83%	4,973	12.42%	1,615	4.03%	687	1.72%	40,037
No Cause Indicated	87,424	76.00%	18,158	15.78%	5,496	4.78%	3,960	3.44%	115,038
Total	120,186	77.50%	23,131	14.92%	7,111	4.59%	4,647	3.00%	155,075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Table 5.12: Cause of Injury by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients

Cause of Injury	Run Outcome												Total
	Trans by Unit		AMA		Release		DOS		Aid Unnec		Trans Private		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
MVO	10,129	75.18%	2,817	20.91%	432	3.21%	52	0.39%	26	0.19%	17	0.13%	13,473
Motorcycle	657	83.38%	100	12.69%	14	1.78%	13	1.65%	3	0.38%	1	0.13%	788
ATV	105	86.78%	15	12.40%	1	0.83%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	121
Pedalcycle	970	79.31%	216	17.66%	32	2.62%	4	0.33%	0	0.00%	1	0.08%	1,223
Pedestrian	886	83.66%	130	12.28%	16	1.51%	24	2.27%	0	0.00%	3	0.28%	1,059
MVC Oth	141	76.22%	31	16.76%	8	4.32%	4	2.16%	1	0.54%	0	0.00%	185
Other Trans	570	81.43%	86	12.29%	36	5.14%	5	0.71%	1	0.14%	2	0.29%	700
Fire-Burn	334	76.61%	87	19.95%	9	2.06%	3	0.69%	3	0.69%	0	0.00%	436
Firearm	290	73.98%	37	9.44%	12	3.06%	51	13.01%	1	0.26%	1	0.26%	392
Stab	1,284	77.63%	275	16.63%	81	4.90%	7	0.42%	2	0.12%	5	0.30%	1,654
Blunt	2,023	73.99%	555	20.30%	139	5.08%	3	0.11%	9	0.33%	5	0.18%	2,734
Fall	11,921	89.10%	1,181	8.83%	219	1.64%	21	0.16%	14	0.10%	23	0.17%	13,379
Assault-Batt	62	78.48%	13	16.46%	4	5.06%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	79
Poison-bite-sting	252	72.41%	71	20.40%	23	6.61%	2	0.57%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	348
Suffocation	19	55.88%	4	11.76%	1	2.94%	10	29.41%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	34
Drown-Sub	22	81.48%	4	14.81%	0	0.00%	1	3.70%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	27
Other Str-Hit-Kick	338	80.67%	60	14.32%	16	3.82%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	5	1.19%	419
Other	1,758	82.89%	255	12.02%	91	4.29%	11	0.52%	5	0.24%	1	0.05%	2,121
Unknown	756	87.40%	58	6.71%	35	4.05%	15	1.73%	1	0.12%	0	0.00%	865
Total Causes	32,517	81.22%	5,995	14.97%	1,169	2.92%	226	0.56%	66	0.16%	64	0.16%	40,037
No Cause Indicated	102,225	88.86%	8,887	7.73%	1,090	0.95%	1,696	1.47%	1,070	0.93%	70	0.06%	115,038
Total	134,742	86.89%	14,882	9.60%	2,259	1.46%	1,922	1.24%	1,136	0.73%	134	0.09%	155,075

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 1999/00

Technical Notes

Denominators

The following table identifies the appropriate numbers for the use with data contained in this report:

	Denominator	Definition/Outcomes
Calls (Section 1)	230,801	All outcomes
Patients (Section 2)	216,885	Transport by unit Against medical advice (AMA) Released Dead on scene (DOS) Transported by private vehicle Aid unnecessary Interfacility Interfacility CCT Other non-emergent BLS
Emergency Patients (Section 3)	155,075	Transport by unit Against medical advice (AMA) Released Dead on scene (DOS) Transported by private vehicle Aid unnecessary
Chief Complaints	153,231	
Cause of Injury	40,037	
Non-Emergency Patients (Section 4)	61,810	Interfacility Interfacility CCT Other non-emergent BLS
Other Outcomes (Section 1)	13,916	Transport by other unit Transport rendezvous Call cancelled Unknown

Note: Emergency patient chief complaints and cause of injuries are not mutually exclusive.

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Advanced Life Support means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency care, including, but not limited to, CPR, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medical preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by personnel under the direct supervision of a base hospital as part of a local EMS system, at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during interfacility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital. (Health and Safety Code 1797.52)

Age Group: Age is reported in 5 and 10-year groupings. Between 0-24 ages are in 5 year groupings and over age 25 are in 10-year groupings.

0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54
55-64	65-74	75-84	85+

Basic Life Support (BLS): Basic Life Support means emergency first aid and CPR procedures which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of CPR to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until advanced life support is available. (Health and Safety Code 1797.60)

Cause of Injury intentional and unintentional

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO)	Motorcycle	ATV (All Terrain Vehicle)
Pedalcycle	Pedestrian	Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) Other
Other Transportation	Fire-Burn	Firearm
Stab	Blunt	Fall
Assault-Battery	Poison-bite-sting	Suffocation
Drown-Submersion	Other Struck-Hit-Kick	Other
Unknown		

Chief Complaint

AB Pain	Airway Obstruction	Allergic Reaction
Altered Neurologic (Diabetes)	Altered Neurologic (Medical)	Asthma
Birth	Burn	Chest Pain Cardiac Chest
Pain Other	CHF	COPD
CPR Medical	CPR Medical Bystander	CVA
Drown/Diving	Environmental	ETOH/Sub Abuse
Extreme Pain Medical	Fever Flu Rash	GI/GU
Hazardous Material/Toxic	Headache Medical	Hemodialysis
Neck Back Medical	OB/GYN	OD Poison
Other Medical	Palpitations	Psychiatric
Seizure	Respiratory Distress	Syncope
CPR Trauma	CPR Trauma Bystander	Trauma Extremity
Trauma Head/Neck	Trauma Torso	Other Trauma

Geographic Areas: The geographic areas used in the analysis of the data are the major statistical areas and the subregional areas of County of San Diego as defined by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). See Figures T.1 and T.2.

Incidence: The number of occurrences for the specific injury type. Incidence should not be used to compare different racial/ethnic groups, age groups or geographic areas. For these comparisons, use rates which take into account differences in population sizes.

Outcome:

Transport by Unit – applied when EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient, provided assistance to the patient, and transported a patient to the Emergency Department (ED) of a receiving hospital (except those defined as an interfacility transfer – see below). These also included emergency patients that would ordinarily go to the ED but were transported to a specialty unit, such as Labor and Delivery, under special instructions by the Base Hospital.

Transport by Other Unit – applied if EMS personnel who responded to a scene, encountered a patient or potential patient, and may have provided assistance to the patient, but the patient was transported by another ambulance.

Transport Rendezvous - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient, and transported the patient to a meeting point to turn the patient over to another agency for transportation to the hospital.

Against Medical Advice (AMA) - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient who had a chief complaint or a suspected chief complaint, but was refusing to be treated and/or transported to the hospital against the medical advice of personnel on scene or on the radio.

Release - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient who had a chief complaint or a suspected chief complaint, but who did not require or want transportation to an emergency department and was released to his/her care, law enforcement or other caretaker.

Dead on Scene – applied if the patient was found to meet the County of San Diego EMS criteria of obviously dead, or in those situations when the patient was pronounced dead on scene and not transported.

Aid Unnecessary – applied if that the person for whom the medical aid call was dispatched did not require any treatment or transport, and was not transported to a medical facility.

Call Cancelled – applied when EMS personnel were dispatched and began to respond, but were cancelled before encountering a patient or potential patient.

Interfacility Transfer – applied if patient was transported from one acute care hospital to another acute care hospital. Used by ALS and BLS personnel only

Interfacility Critical Care Transport (CCT) – Used by CCT personnel only.

Other Non-Emergency BLS – applied whenever BLS personnel transported a patient to a non-hospital setting or whenever a patient was transferred from a non-hospital setting to someplace other than a hospital's ED.

Patient Status: While on scene, EMS personnel assign a patient status or level of acuity. Below is a description of the levels of status/acuity.

Mild - patient with stable vital signs and no apparent threat to life or limb

Moderate - patient with suspected threat to life or limb needing immediate evaluation by medical personnel

Acute – patient with apparent need for immediate intervention to protect life or limb

Race/Ethnicity: Race/ethnicity is calculated for this report as Hispanic, non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian/Other based on SANDAG estimates of population for January 2000.

Rate: Calculated as incidence per 100,000 population. Rates were calculated using January 2000 population estimates provided by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Rates were not calculated for categories with less than five occurrences, due to instability.

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Incidence} \times 100,000}{\text{Population}}$$

SANDAG: San Diego Association of Governments.

Response Time: Defined as the time EMS personnel received the dispatch call to the time that they arrived on scene.

Source of Data: All incidence data is from the County of San Diego Prehospital Database Fiscal Year 1999/00.

Figure T.1

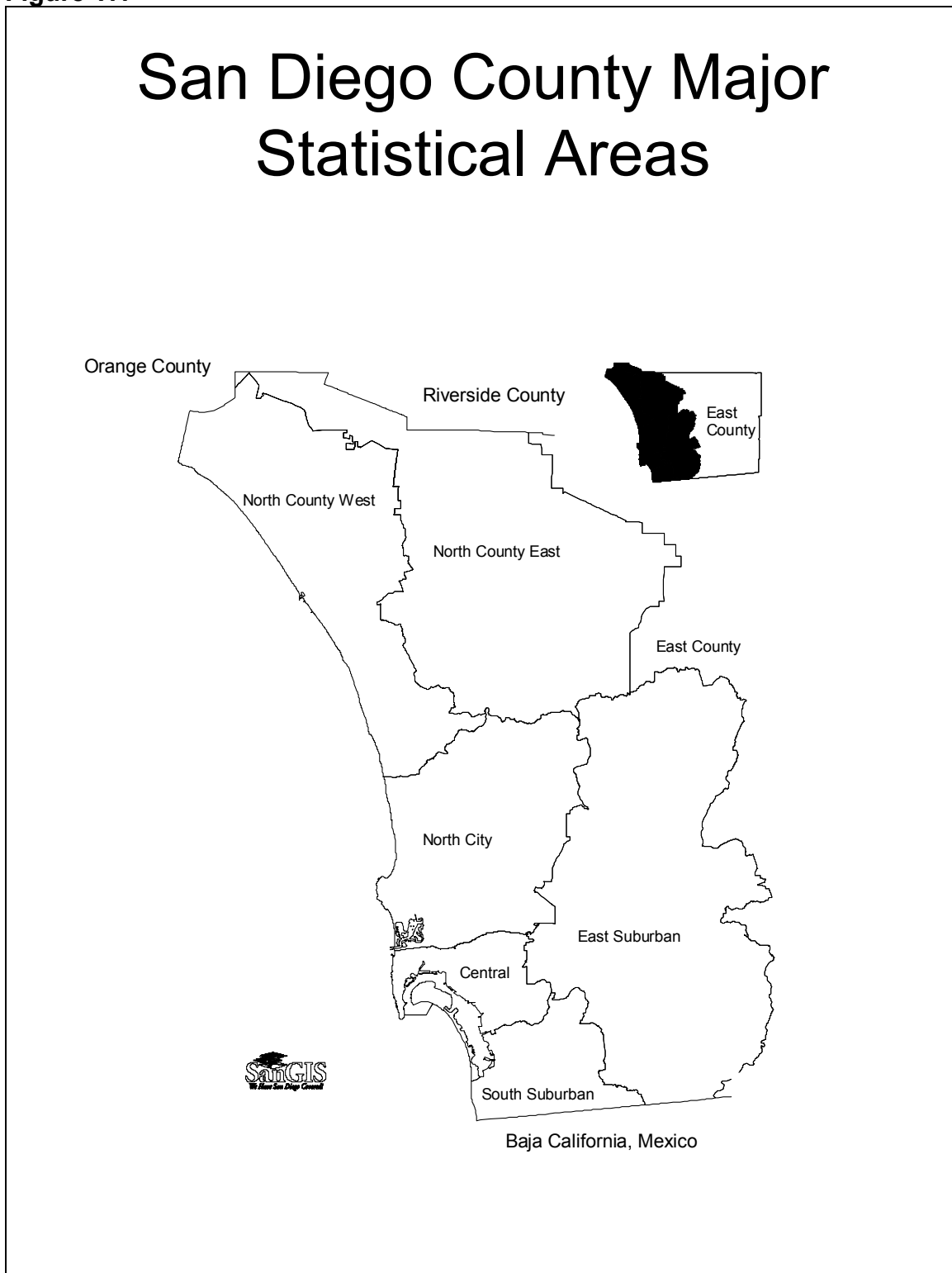


Figure T.2

San Diego County Subregional Areas

